Dudley
CHRONICLE

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Town most expensive for burial and cremations

FAMILIES FACING FUNERAL DEBTS

Report by John Corser

DUDLEY and Stourbridge are the most expensive places in the UK for a funeral, after London.

The West Midlands is the second highest priced region of the UK for funeral costs, with Dudley and Stourbridge topping the table within the region with the average costs of a funeral at £4,439.

Meanwhile, the average cost across the West Midlands is now £3,977, according to research from insurance group Royal London for its national funeral cost index.

London's average funeral is estimated at £4,838 – that's £6,479 for burials and £3,198 for cremations. In the West Midlands burials average at £4,699 and cremations at £3,255. Nationally the average stands at £3,757.

In the fifth year of Royal London's research into funeral costs, the average cost of a UK funeral has risen by six per cent from £3,551 in 2014.

Debt

Now there are fears that funeral costs are forcing families into debt.

Individual funeral debt has increased at a much higher rate – 34 per cent – in the last five years with people now taking on an average debt of £1,744, compared to £1,305 in 2014.

Royal London's funeral cost expert Louise Eaton-Terry said: "High funeral costs in the West Midlands have left many families taking on a mountain of debt, with our research showing a huge increase in the amount being borrowed by the bereaved over the last five years.

"More support needs to be offered to families struggling to pay for funeral costs. It's shocking that the Government do not consider funeral director's fees and a coffin to be a 'necessary' cost. We want the Social Fund to cover the cost of a basic funeral, as no-one should have to struggle to give their loved ones a decent send-off."

Royal London found that nationally 12 per cent took on debt to pay for a funeral. Of those who struggled with funeral costs, 28 per cent borrowed money from friends and family and 21 per cent took on debt. One in 10 sold possessions to give their loved ones a decent send-off.

DUBS' FIRST BIG DO AT HALL WAS VAN-TASTIC

Colin Martland from Willenhall with dogs Barnabe and Mavis and his eye-catching beach design VW van called Cookie

THOUSANDS turned out in their Volkswagen vans for a new festival for VW fans.

Crowds gathered at Himley Hall to mark the first Dubs Collective Party in the Park event. Organisers brought a host of acts from live musicians to breakdancers and champion BMX rider Lee Musselwhite to entertain more than 4,000 visitors.

Event co-organiser Cheryl Drew, from Stourbridge, said: "It has been extremely hard work for a first event but it has been amazing. We have had 2,500 camping and a couple of thousand a day visiting.

"We are so overwhelmed with the support from the Volkswagen community and the local community as well.

Cheryl and partner Darren Jones decided to put on the event for the Dubs Collective group, which has more than 4,000 members on Facebook.

"This is the first event we have done. Darren and I are both lovers of the Volkswagen world, so we purchased the T5 about five years ago and absolutely loved going to festivals and the festival life. So we set up a club called Dubs Collective."

The weekend had a Peaky Blinders theme, in honour of the TV drama filmed in the Black Country, and organisers are already planning next year's event, with a 1980s theme.

POLICE

Man facing kidnap and rape charges

A BRIERLEY Hill man has been charged with 13 offences including kidnap and rape. Simon Wiggins, 46, is accused of rape, sexual assault, kidnap and assault. He is due to appear at Northampton Crown Court on October 12.

The alleged offences, against three victims, were said to have happened in Dudley, Stourbridge and Northamptonshire between 1997 and 2018. Northamptonshire Police are investigating. Anyone with information is asked to contact police on 101, quoting Operation Pelican, or Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555111.

SEARCH

Missing student – suspects released

TWO men arrested on suspicion of murder by police searching for missing student Thomas Jones in Worcester have been released without charge.

Albion fan Thomas, aged 18, from Bromsgrove, was last seen in the early hours of September 19 close to the River Severn. He recently started a teaching course at the city's university.

West Mercia Police said it remains a missing person enquiry.

PLANNING

Supermarket and flats get green light

PLANS to build a supermarket and eight flats in Brierley Hill have been given the green light by planning bosses.

Dudley Council approved the application to build the three-storey building on currently vacant land in Moor Street.

It plan includes a supermarket on the ground floor, with eight flats above, plus car parking facilities.

INSIDE

FESTIVE FAIR COMPETITION

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I will turn hospital around, says chief

Chief executive Diane Wake

THE boss of troubled Russells Hall Hospital has suggested she is the best person to turn it around, as she laid out her plans to improve services to concerned council chiefs.

Under-fire chief executive Diane Wake presented an improvement plan to Dudley Council following a damning inspection by health watchdog the Care Quality Commission, which again found the emergency department 'inadequate'.

She is expected to be grilled by council scrutiny bosses this week over failings at the hospital, which is facing a probe into the deaths of up to 54 patients.

Ms Wake has laid out her plans for delivering the required improvements, including action over sepsis, which the watchdog said doctors were struggling to identify, and increased staffing.

She said there had been a 'comprehensive staffing review' and an extra five A&E consultants had been brought in.

The hospital boss said staff in A&E had been re-trained in how to spot the signs of sepsis and manage patients who have the condition. A 'dedicated sepsis trolley' has also been introduced.

A report from Ms Wake to the council's health scrutiny committee said: "We are absolutely committed to delivering the actions needed to ensure our patients are safe.

"A new cohort of qualified nurses commence in September 2018. A neighbouring trust is supporting us with an induction programme for new nursing starters and a training programme for all staff in the emergency department."

The borough's four MPs – Ian Austin, Mike Wood, Margot James and James Morris – have insisted change is needed at the top and called for the chair of governors, Jenni Ord, to resign.

Cushty! Fan buys Del Boy's watch for £28k

HE who dares Rodney, he who dares... the Black Country biggest Only Fools And Horses fan has splashed out £28,000 for an iconic prop from Britain's best loved sitcom.

Michael Enright, 47, from Gornal, has bought the pocket watch that made his hero Del Boy a millionaire in a classic episode of the hit TV show... and he even attended the auction in Dudley dressed up with his pal as Batman and Robin in tribute to a classic scene from the TV show.

The novelty prop went on sale at Aston's Auctioneers in Tower Street on Thursday, selling for almost double its anticipated price of £15,000.

Super-fan Michael could not resist the item after he read in the Express & Star that it was up for sale.

Trotter

Michael, 47, said: "Hands down my favourite thing about Only Fools and Horses is Del Boy, I live my life like him. I'm a Trotter at heart and everything I do is to be similar to him, he's brilliant."

Michael and his friend Jason Baddams came through the doors of the auction house dressed as Batman and Robin. Michael, owner of MT Skips in Dudley, said: "Jason loves the show too but the whole fancy dress thing was a last minute idea.

"Everyone at the auction house loved it when we came in all dressed up, they all had a good laugh and it was brilliant.

"My family think I'm mad, completely bonkers, but you'll never see this item again, I had one chance to get it and I knew if I'd have lost out on it I'd have been gutted. It's a lot of money but it's worth it.

"At the end when I'd won the auction, a man from London who was bidding against me, came and shook my hand.

"He asked me how much I was prepared to pay for it and I said I came here to buy it, whatever the cost."

The timepiece was made by the BBC props department for the 1996 episode Time On Our Hands, which finally saw the Trotter brothers realise their dream of becoming millionaires.

Michael, described himself as a 'huge fan' of Only Fools and Horses. "All four of my kids watch it and every single night I sit down and enjoy an episode. I'm addicted to it," he said. " You'll be hard pressed to find anyone who doesn't love the show

"There are only two of these watches in existence so I'm definitely keeping this one safe. In 10 years I might look at selling it on and seeing what I can get, I think I could take it back to auction now and make my money back. If I do sell it on I want to take it to Sotheby's, the auction house they used in the show."

Also at Aston's, a huge collection of Star Wars memorabilia including more than 600 different lots sold for just shy of £100,000 but the Boba Fett figure that was expected to fetch £2,000 went unsold. Star lot was a Princess Leia figure, made by toy company Palitoy, that sold for £1,200.

Only Fools And Horses super-fan Michael Enright, left, with the £28k pocket watch, alongside friend Jason Baddams

New base for group helping youngsters

A popular counselling charity has opened its doors in Dudley town centre.

The What? Centre, which provides one-to-one therapeutic counselling and advice services for young people across the borough, has opened in Priory Street, Dudley.

The centre, which already has a base in Stourbridge, was officially opened by the Mayor of Dudley, Councillor Alan Taylor. It is set to provide free advice, creative groups and therapeutic workshops for young people aged between 13 and 25.

The centre is also running What's Up? – a Friday youth group where young people can play sport, video games, watch films, take part in creative activities or just enjoy a chat with friends.

Judy Duffy, chief officer of the centre, said: "The Stourbridge centre has already supported many thousands of young people with their mental health and social welfare over the last 30 years.

"We can now look forward to helping many more young people across the Dudley area in a fun and creative way."

For further information about The What? Centre call (01384) 885488, email whatdudley_yif@outlook.com or go to the centre's website, thewhatcentre.com

Eerie go for a spooky night

SPOOKY fun and creepy crafts will be on offer at Dudley Zoo and Castle next month, although Halloween night itself has already sold out.

The team are preparing for ghoulish goings-on at their Halloween Hocus Pocus events when daring youngsters will be encouraged to brave after-hours events at the Castle Hill attraction.

Dudley Zoo's marketing manager Andrea Hales said: "Our Halloween events always go down a treat as the zoo and castle after dark is an eerily exciting place to be. Tickets are selling fast."

Hocus Pocus tickets, which must be booked in advance, are £10 for children aged three to 15 with under 3s free. Adults are £8.50 and a family ticket – two adults and two children – is £32. Events take place on October 29 and 30.

South to perform some Beautiful hits

EX-MEMBERS of The Beautiful South, including Birmingham singer Alison Wheeler, perform such hits as Perfect 10, Rotterdam and Don't Marry Her at Kings Heath venue the Hare & Hounds on Friday, October 5, as The South. See hareandhoundskingsheath.co.uk

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Wolves stars wished fan happy 92nd birthday

LIFELONG Wolves fan Jim Payne received quite a shock on his 92nd birthday. The supporter from Brierley Hill was surprised with a minute-long video of players wishing him many happy returns.

And the kind-hearted man who organised it all was someone he had never even met. Manny Singh Kang, 46, waited outside Molineux with his two sons for nearly three hours to capture the footballers on camera.

A friend of Jim's grand-daughter, Gemma, he had been asked if he could pick up a new Wolves shirt as a birthday gift for her grandfather but he decided to go that extra mile.

Manny, who lives in Wolverhampton and works as a signaller for Network Rail, said: "I'm a massive Wolves fan myself and I just had the idea while at the game. Now Jim has a huge smile on his face and something he'll treasure forever."

Gemma, who has only known Manny since meeting him at Pure Gym Dudley in Tipton, said: "I knew I wanted to get grandad a Wolves shirt for his birthday, so Manny said he'd get one for me as he was already going to get one for himself. But bless him, he waited for about two or three hours after the Burnley game and got the players as they were leaving to wish grandad a happy birthday on film."

● See the video at expressandstar.com

Gym star joins city Hall of Fame

GYMNASTICS star Kristian Thomas, who trained in Halesowen, has been inducted into Wolverhampton's Sporting Hall of Fame.

The Olympic medallist said it was a proud moment as he joined stellar names such as Billy Wright and Denise Lewis on the list.

Kristian, who has now retired, was part of one of the most successful men's gymnastics teams and went on to become household names in the sporting world. He was recognised by the city along with former cyclist Stuart Dangerfield, winter Olympian Michael Booton and Mark Farnell, the first Paralympian to make it into the Hall of Fame, inducted in front of around 100 guests at Aldersley Leisure Village.

Shanghai show

BRIERLEY Hill-based Alloy Wire International is stepping up its expansion in the Far East by exhibiting at the Wire China industry showcase in Shanghai. The company has factories in the Black Country and Yorkshire.

Tim's royal snap on awards shortlist

Prince William at Mary Stevens Park

EXPRESS & Star chief photographer Tim Thursfield's shot of The Duke of Cambridge visiting the Black Country has been shortlisted for a top award.

His photograph of the Duke meeting the crowds in Stourbridge just last week has been shortlisted for the News Media Association's Royal Rota photography competition. The online public runs until 5pm tomorrow (Friday).

The results will be used to create a shortlist, which will be judged by a panel of industry experts to find the winners in five categories: National Newspaper Rota Photo of the Year; Regional/Local Newspaper Rota Photo of the Year; Rota Picture Agency Rota Photo of the Year; Overall Rota Photo of the Year; Special Category – Rota photographs of Prince Harry and Meghan Markle together.

The E&S shot was taken when the Duke visited Stourbridge to unveil a statue of Frank Foley, see page 5 for more pictures. Thousands of people packed into Mary Stevens Park to honour the man dubbed 'The British Schindler' because he helped save thousands of Jewish families from Nazi concentration camps. The secret agent used his role as passport control officer for the British embassy in Berlin, as a cover to help thousands of Jews escape from Nazi Germany. He retired to Stourbridge where he lived near Mary Stevens Park where the Duke unveiled his statue last Tuesday.

A showcase of 48 of the best photographs from Roya Rota events is on the News Media Association's website and members of the public are invited to browse the images and vote for their favourite.

Fatal crash driver, 20, walks free from court

A YOUNG woman from Dudley who caused the death of a grandfather by driving without due care and attention left court in tears after being spared immediate detention.

A lack of experience behind the wheel may have led Emily Doyle-Gibbons – 19 at the time, now 20 – to lose control of her Ford Fiesta.

Her car crossed the carriageway and ploughed head-on into a Vauxhall Corsa, killing its driver Malcolm Aplin. Wolverhampton Crown Court heard that both vehicles were travelling at between 45mph and 55mph – within the 60mph limit – when tragedy struck on a curve at Port Lane near Brewood around 4.15pm on June 25 last year.

Emily Doyle-Gibbons – in tears

Mr Aplin, a 59-year-old care home owner from Tettenhall with five children and five grandchildren, suffered 'catastrophic' injuries and died at the scene.

Doyle-Gibbons, who passed her test in January 2016, was found guilty by a 10-2 majority, following a trial, of causing death by careless driving. She spent 15 days in hospital with a fractured foot, pelvis and wrist.

Mr Paul Spratt, prosecuting, said: "You may come to the conclusion that the speed at which she was travelling, coupled with her relative inexperience, made her incapable of reacting how a more experienced driver might have done."

Mr Oliver Woolhouse, defending, suggested that a 'conflagration of small mistakes' caused her 'inability or failure' to correct the steering before it was too late after going over a drain.

Judge James Burbidge QC told her: "You well know the devastation you have caused and feel that keenly."

Doyle-Gibbons , of Warren Drive, was given six months detention suspended for two years, ordered to do 250 hours unpaid community work and banned from driving for five years.

Mayor sets new fundraising record

Former mayor Councillor Dave Tyler gave £58,750 to charities after events including a dinner with Kevin Keegan

A former Mayor of Dudley has raised more than £58,000 for his chosen charities during his year in office – a borough fundraising record.

Councillor Dave Tyler handed over £58,750 to be divided between Dudley Mind, Dudley Alzheimer's Society and the YMCA, and thanked all those who had supported his fundraising events. These had included a charity dinner with England and Liverpool football legend Kevin Keegan.

Councillor Tyler's fundraising efforts beas the previous record of £55,000 by Councillor Steve Waltho. Councillor Tyler said: "It was an honour to serve as Mayor of Dudley, alongside my wife Barbara, and to be able to help raise funds for charities which are so close to my heart. These organisations will be able to use this money to support people going through difficult times."

NEWS IN BRIEF

Gnome one knows where they went

A collection of gnomes that were on show at Dudley Zoo during the 1970s and 80s have disappeared without a trace – without even a photograph

Now staff are appealing to members of the public, asking them to send in pictures of 'Gnomeland, which was populated by gnomes in a small system of caves lit by lamplight for visitors to the Castle Hill attraction.

Zoo director Derek Grove said: "People remember Gnomeland and talk about it, but there's a definite gap in our archives as we don't have a photo of the popular exhibit." Anyone with a photo of the gnomes is asked to email photos@dudleyzoo.org.uk

School expansion gets the go-ahead

PLANS for an expansion at a school for children with mild learning difficulties have been given the green light.

Cabinet chiefs at Sandwell Council gave the go-ahead for Westminster School in Rowley Regis to increase numbers from 194 to 250, including 46 places for post-16 education and 10 in the seven to 16 age group.

A report to cabinet said the school will improve opportunities of to find jobs. Councillor Joyce Underhill said: "These are badly needed places for children with moderate learning difficulties, rather than see them struggling along in mainstream schools."

Mind host mental health day event

A conference is being held in Stourbridge to mark World Mental Health Day on Wednesday, October 10.

Dudley Mind is hosting the event in its wellbeing cafe Food for Thought in Victoria Street from 9.30am to 4pm.

The conference wlll have presentations from a number of groups working in the borough with young people.

The cost is £50 which will include drinks and lunch. Call Dudley Mind on (01384) 442938 or email enquiries@dudleymind.org.uk to book. Dudley Mind holds its annual meeting at the cafe after the conference.

Fresh poems written on demand at library

A former Worcestershire Poet Laureate is visiting Stourbridge Library, to create poems on demand.

Fergus McGonigal will be at the library in the Crown Centre on October 4 from 11am as part of National Poetry Day. He has had three collections of his poetry published, The Failed Idealist's Guide to the Tatty Truth, Everyone Is Now Unhappy and, for children, The Thought Which Fell Down the Back of the Sofa.

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Hard rockers' gig now set in Stone

BIRMINGHAM'S latest live alternative music venue The Mill in Digbeth has announced a headline show for Walsall hard rockers Stone Broken.

The four-piece, who released their latest record Ain't Always Easy in May, will headline the venue on February 15 next year as part of their next UK tour titled Home.

A statement on The Mill's Facebook page said: "Stone Broken, presently blazing a debut tour trail across the USA, have announced their Home UK headline tour, set to take place this coming February and March, with special guests to be announced in due course."

Marking 100 years since end of war

A SPECIAL re-enactment display is to be held at a museum to mark 100 years ago since the end of the First World War.

The Sandwell Remembers event will be held at Haden Hill House Museum, in Cradley Heath, on Sunday.

Visitors will be able to learn more about Great War soldiers with the Royal Warwickshire Regiment re-enactment group.

The free event will take place between noon and 4pm, where there will also be live music from the period.

For further information go to sandwell.gov.uk and search for Sandwell Remembers.

Promotion ale to support hospital

A NEW beer celebrating Wolves' return to the Premier League has been created by a Shropshire brewery.

Three Tuns in Bishop's Castle, believed to be the UK's oldest brewery, has brewed five per cent ale The Pack is Back. It will be on sale in The Fox, Shipley, and Platform Ale House, Albrighton, next month.

Brewery owner John Russell, originally from Sedgley, is a keen Wolves supporter. All profits will go to Birmingham Children's Hospital.

Bullring set for US Morphe's next store

AMERICAN beauty giant Morphe will open its second store in the UK this year at Birmingham's Bullring.

The store is set to open in late autumn this year, but a date has not yet been set.

The brand currently only has an online presence here in the UK but wants to offer customers more.

Chiefs say they are 'excited' for the move and called the Bullring the 'perfect destination' to set up shop.

Birthday surprise goes down a storm

Amanda Whyman, Paul Wootton, Jade and Jerome Wootton

THE force was definitely with one diehard Star Wars fan as he surprised his daughter on her 21st birthday.

Paul Wootton, from Sedgley, left his daughter Jade overjoyed when he turned up to her birthday party at the Old Bull's Head Inn in Redhall Road, Dudley, fully kitted out in an exact replica Stormtrooper suit.

The head-turning outfit, which cost almost £1,000 and takes around an hour to put on, saw people stopping for pictures and drivers beeping their horns in the street.

Mr Wootton said: "Jade was really over the moon. She likes Star Wars, so she was really quite surprised and shocked.

"There were lots of people commenting and having their photos taken with me. I am 55 now and I grew up with Star Wars. I always wanted to get a suit at some point. I bought this suit last October off a couple in Warrington.

"My suit is from Episode Four: A New Hope. I bought it from them hoping to use it for other events."

Paul says he has donned the suit three times, but plans to wear it for charity. "I am hoping to do something to try and raise money for the Midland Air Ambulance," he said.

Well, it's another fine film you got us into

Report by Thomas Parkes

IT LOOKS like another fine film – judging by the first trailer for the new Laurel and Hardy movie filmed in the Black Country.

Cinemagoers won't have to wait too long to see the film in all its glory as it gets its world premiere next month before hitting the silver screen early next year.

Steve Coogan and John C Reilly play the classic comedy duo in biopic Stan & Ollie. The film documents what would become the duo's farewell tour of the UK and shows them facing dwindling audiences while airing old grievances, battling health issues and reminiscing about the past.

Alan Partridge star Coogan plays Stan Laurel, while Ollie is played by American Reilly, who was Oscar nominated for Chicago in 2002.

Shop

Parts of The Black Country Living Museum feature in the trailer with historic buildings including the Bottle and Glass Inn and the fish and chip shop visible in a shot.

Mancunian Coogan joined Reilly to film a short scene at the museum last year. Other filming locations for the movie include Birmingham's Old Rep Theatre and parts of Bristol.

Staff at the Tipton Road Museum said they were excited to see the attraction in the newly released trailer.

"We were delighted to see that the new trailer for Stan and Ollie features a few snippets of the museum, including our main Canal Street with the Bottle and Glass in the background as well as Hobbs' fish and chip shop," said a spokesperson.

The film gets its world premiere at the BFI London Film Festival on October 21, before its UK release on January 11.

Steve Coogan as Laurel, and John C Reilly, as Hardy, recreate the famous dance scene from Way Out West

The Black Country Living Museum features in the trailer

The stars filming at the museum in Dudley last year

'Rape' threat blackmail woman, 20, is locked up

A woman from Stourbridge, who blackmailed a 'naive and vulnerable' man after tricking him into saying he would commit a rape, has been locked up.

Nadine McDonnell targeted her victim after coming into contact with him via the internet , a judge heard. A chat led to a meeting at which the 20-year-old McDonnell realised how unworldly he was.

In March last year she invented a friend called Kerry that resulted in him being tricked into texting something he 'deeply regretted', Wolverhampton Crown Court was told.

He was then subjected to a 'campaign of blackmail' by manipulative McDonnell, said Mr Mark Stevens, prosecuting.

At the end of a 'sexually manipulative' set of conversations in more than 75 text messages exchanged on April 15 last year, he was duped into agreeing to get the defendant drunk before raping her because that was what the fictitious Kerry suggested.

Then McDonnell demanded money to buy her silence over what he had texted, forcing him to take out a £1,000 bank loan to keep her quiet. He finally cracked after handing her more than £2,000 worth of gifts and cash, telling his mother who alerted the police.

Mr Jasvir Mann, defending, said McDonnell, of St Marks Road, who was of previous good character, was suffering from depression at the time.

McDonnell admitted blackmail and was sentenced to ten months detention.

Vegan-friendly 'fish' now at pub

A PUB in Dudley has launched a vegan range of meals as part of its new menu.

The Bramford Arms, in Park Road, even offers a vegan version of pub classic fish and chips.

Produced by VBite, the vegan dish is made of fish-free 'fish' flakes, and there is also a Bakewell tart pudding, which is served with special vegan vanilla flavoured ice-cream.

Christopher Henden, general manager, said: "We know our local customers have a wide range of diets and tastes, so it's important that we experiment with exciting new dishes and flavour combinations to ensure we cater for this."

Other dishes on the special menu include chickpea and sweet potato curry and vegan falafel burger.

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A Memory Walk raising awareness of Alzheimer's

A MEMORY walk will take place at Himley Hall on Sunday to raise funds for the Alzheimer's Society.

The event follows the success of last year's walk, organised by the then Mayor of Dudley, Councillor Dave Tyler, who has also organised this year's second walk to raise money for the dementia charity.

The route is suitable for all walkers and abilities. Families and pets are also welcome to take on the challenge, which sets of from the hall's grounds at 11am. Participants can choose to whether they want to take part in the 2km, 4km or 6km walk.

Councillor Tyler said: "As Mayor last year we held a Memory Walk and as walkers came past the start/finish line they all asked if I was organising one again. How could I say no for such a great cause?"

Emma Butler, from the Alzheimer's Society, added: "Alzheimer's Society has a significant role to play in supporting not only those with dementia but also their families and carers.

"The Memory Walk at Himley Hall helps raise much-needed funds and awareness about dementia."

To pre-book to take part in this year's event, visit www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/daves-memory-walk-2018-tickets-49342189818 or donate to www.justgiving.com/fundraising/dave-tylermemorywalk.

Machete brawl in street after crash

MEN said to be carrying machetes, an axe and a baseball bat clashed in broad daylight in a Dudley street after two cars crashed.

Officers were called to Dibdale Road West after the collision outside Bahia's Snooker Club.

An eyewitness said the cars had been racing on the street before ramming each other.

He said: "Two cars massively collided. Men got out of the one car brandishing machetes, an axe and a baseball bat. There was a running fight. I think it was gang related."

No arrests have yet been made following the incident at around 2pm on September 16. Anyone with information is urged to call 101 or Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111.

Rugby club bonfire

A RUGBY club is to host a family bonfire and firework display this autumn. The community event is to be held at Stourbridge Rugby Club's Stourton Park ground in Bridgnorth Road on November 2 from 6.30pm.

Jail for driver who rammed police cars

A SERIAL offender who ignored armed police and rammed two of their vehicles has been jailed for nine months.

The officers had tried to block banned driver Kieran Taplin on the car park of The Greyhound pub in Norton Road, Stourbridge, shortly before midnight on June 8.

They were looking for a man armed with a machete who had tried to force his way into a nearby house, whose occupants did not want to support a prosecution, Wolverhampton Crown Court heard.

Armed police sent to the scene saw the parked Range Rover and three police cars tried to box it in when the driver returned to the vehicle.

Mr Geoffrey Dann, prosecuting, explained that Taplin repeatedly reversed into one of the police vehicles and side swiped another out of the way as he roared off.

The Range Rover but was later found abandoned iand a search with dogs discovered 30-year-old Taplin lying in a field. A machete was found in a door pocket of the car.

Dangerous

Taplin, who had previous convictions involving more than 40 offences, was also wanted for two earlier offences of dangerous driving.

In February he had driven the wrong way down a one-way street to evade police and in March deliberately drove into the door of a woman's BMW in Netherton because he wrongly thought she had sounded her horn at him. He also racially abused her.

Eleven days later he was seen at the wheel of a stolen Ford Fiesta.

Mr Curtis Myrie, defending, said Taplin had mental health issues.

Taplin of no fixed address, pleaded guilty to dangerous driving, driving while disqualified, possession of a machete and racially aggravated harassment.

Judge Jinder Singh Boora jailed him for 40 weeks and disqualified him from driving for three years on release.

Prince pays tribute to hero who saved families

HIS BRAVE actions saved thousands of Jews from Nazi concentration camps.

Now 60 years after his death it is clear Major Frank Foley's heroic deeds have not been forgotten as Prince William visited Stourbridge to unveil a statue of the unassuming hero whose actions as a senior passport officer in the British Embassy in 1930s Berlin saved families from the Holocaust.

Mary Stevens Park – near where Major Foley used to live in Eveson Road – was crowded for the big occasion last Tuesday afternoon. It was probably the grandest day at the park since Queen Elizabeth II and Prince Philip visited in 1957.

The Duke of Cambridge made his way down the park's boulevard, named Queen's Drive after his grandmother's visit 61 years ago.

He was greeted with chants of 'Stourbridge loves you' and was heard to comment to one spectator: "It is a lovely park you have here."

The Duke met members of Major Foley's family, descendants of some of the people he saved, as well as Dudley North MP Ian Austin and representatives of the Holocaust Educational Trust, who have campaigned to honour Major Foley in the town where he spent his retirement.

Freedom

The statue has been created by Birmingham artist Andy De Comyn, featuring Major Foley sitting on a bench, his briefcase hinting at his work as an MI6 agent and feeding a bird, symbolising freedom.

Mr De Comyn said: "It's been eight months of work with the sculpting and foundry work. It's my first full size bronze sculpture. It is a real bonus to have His Royal Highness here and it is really nice for Frank Foley to get this recognition."

Dubbed the 'British Schindler', it is believed Major Foley saved more than 10,000 Jews from the gas chambers. It was only years later that the scale of his life-saving campaign came to light after author Michael Smith, published his book, Foley: The Spy Who Saved 10,000 Jews, in 1999.

In making his speech, Labour MP Mr Austin said: "He retired in complete anonymity, never boasting about what he did. I want people to come to the park and sit next to Frank Foley and remember a great local hero."

Prince William and Ian Austin MP admire the statue of Frank Foley, where people can sit with a true hero

Prince Williams meets guests at the unveiling

The Duke chats to one of the youngest in the

NEWS IN BRIEF

Latest Camra prize for real ale pub

A real ale pub is to receive another award. The Beacon Hotel in Bilston Street, Sedgley, finished third in the West Midlands round of the Campaign for Real Ale's pub of the year.

Dudley and South Staffs Camra were due to present the certificate at the pub last night (Wednesday)

The branch is also seeking more volunteers from the area and from neighbouring Camra branches to help with the 2018 Dudley Winter Ales Fair, from bar managers to stewards at Dudley Town Hall from November 29 to December 1. A meeting is being held in The Park Inn, Woodsetton, on October 1 at 8pm.

Pal hits £1,000 memorial target

A SCHOOL pal of murdered paperboy Carl Bridgewater is overjoyed at reaching his £1,000 target for a memorial bench in time for the 40th anniversary of the teenager's death last Wednesday.

Adrian Goodaker, aged 54, said: "I'm overwhelmed that people have been so generous."

The money was raised in a month after the father-of-two launched an online appeal. A bench will now be installed at one of the teenager's favourite places, Himley Hall, overlooking the lake where he used to sail.

Beer set to flow again at Fountain

A POPULAR real ale pub is to reopen after a makeover.

The new owner of the Fountain Inn in Temple Street, Lower Gornal, has begun refurbishment, including repainting the exterior.

Former Sadler's Ales operations director Bill Redwood, who is leasing the pub, hopes to have it back in operation by October 15. It closed suddenly in January.

The Fountain has twice been a winner of the Dudley and South Staffordshire Camra branch annual pub of the year competition.

Burger King drive-thru planned for Castlegate

PLANS for a new Burger King drive-thru restaurant in Dudley have been lodged with council bosses.

A planning application has been submitted to Dudley Council to build the restaurant alongside other restraurants and attractions at Castlegate Drive.

If approved Burger King would be located one Castlegate Business Park, which also has a Nando's, Frankie and Benny's, cinema and bowling alley.

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IN MY VIEW
with Mark Andrews

Clearing the air just muddies the waters

CONSULTATION (noun): the process where public authorities tell lesser mortals what they have decided to do, spend lots of money encouraging the public to have their say, and then do it anyway.

Take Birmingham's clean-air zone, for example. Motorists who bought diesel cars like the Government told us to a few years ago will soon be charged £10 a day for driving into the city centre.

Here's a prediction of how it will pan out. By the time it comes into force in 2020, businesses will have already started relocating to the edge of the ring road, just outside the zone. Vast amounts of fossil fuels will be burned constructing new office blocks, business parks, shopping centres and car parks, and concerns rise about pollution and traffic around the edge of the city.

By then, the Government will have decided that it is petrol and electric rather than diesel cars that are the problem, and introduced new taxes.

Meanwhile, concerned by the number of empty buildings in the city centre, the council spends millions on regeneration plans. Local bigwigs catch a filthy great plane to Cannes to unveil their vision at the annual planning junket – before putting it out to consultation.

❒❒❒

OF COURSE, it's never a proper consultation without a scare story and a grim warning that 'doing nothing is not an option'. And Councillor Waseem Zaffar, the man behind the clean-air charge, certainly delivered.

"Nine hundred deaths are accelerated each year as a result of air pollution," he said. " That's not the city I want my child, or any children, growing up in."

If it saves one life, and all that.

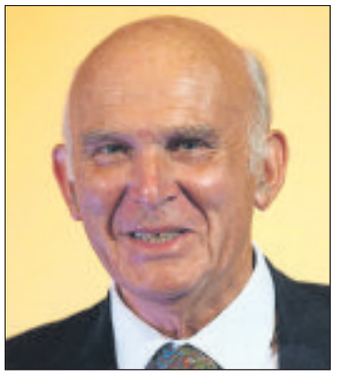
Now we don't know where Councillor Zaffar got his figures from, but it is probably the 2015 study by King's College London, which seems to be the car basher's weapon of choice at the moment. It claims that in London, one in every 1,417 lives is shortened by pollution.

They rarely tell us, though, that the report's own authors admit to 'uncertainty in the evidence' and that 'figures are approximate and need to be used with care'. Still, why let facts get in the way of new taxes?

And while they happily quote scary figures about 'lives being shortened', they rarely elaborate on how much they are shortened by. Ten years? Five? Six months? Well actually the study estimated that if its recommendations were implemented in full, life expectancy would increase by a few hours. Bet you didn't hear much about that in consultation.

People are plumper and can't squeeze into saloons

Commission president Jean-Claude Juncker – unveiling plans on trading bloc



Sir Vince Cable – this blooper will haunt him to his obituary, and beyond

Twiggy – now in her 70th year – and tale of formal dinner next to Princess Margaret

Real reason this car is now Beetle-ing off

WHAT'S the real reason for Volkswagen ending production of the legendary Beetle? According to one report: "It was out of sync with consumers in the US where bigger cars, including crossovers and sports utility vehicles, dominate the market." The reason our roads are dominated by enormous 4x4s is not because folk live in the outback or drive off-road. It's because people are getting plumper and can no longer squeeze into saloons. In the case of the Beetle, for "out of sync" maybe instead we should really read it's "too small for fatties."

AS the campaign for a "People's Vote" rattles on, based on the claim that the British public did not understand what Brexit would mean, a reader writes: "I am watching this with interest. I am not 100 per cent sure everything was explained fully at my wedding ceremony 46 years ago."

BRITAIN'S prison system is founded on the Christian principles of penitence and rehabilitation. It is best suited to dealing with old-fashioned burglars and robbers who, if all else fails, will eventually grow out of their criminality. But a regime of rewards and early release is hopeless when it comes to dedicated jihadists who leave prison just as deranged and homicidal as they went in. Some of these religious extremists are jihadists for life. Dozens of them are coming to the end of their jail terms this year, to be released into the community they despise and have sworn to destroy.

SO here's a prediction. Before long, a jihadist freed from a British prison – and probably released early – will commit murder or mass murder. And it's not simply a question of if, but when.

THE BEST OF PETER RHODES

TWIGGY entered her 70th year this week. One tabloid marked her birthday by re-telling the old tale of the formal dinner where the world-famous model was seated next to Princess Margaret, who asked her name. Twiggy replied that her real name was Lesley Hornby "but most people call me Twiggy." Turning away, the princess muttered: "How unfortunate." Two women. One a national treasure, the other a truly ghastly specimen. No prizes.

FOR those of you crying foul at the suggestion that Britain might leave the EU and then change the agreement, look at where the EU is heading, and how it is changing. The Commission president Jean-Claude Juncker has been unveiling plans to turn the Union from a mere trading bloc into a sovereign world power. The EU we are leaving is nothing like the Habsburg Empire Mk II the EU will become.

INEVITABLY, Juncker's speech included the old lie "We live on a peaceful continent, made possible by the European Union." Bunkum. Peace in Western Europe was made possible by the sacrifice of British, Russian and American soldiers and the threat of atomic weapons.

BODYGUARD (BBC1) has been a TV triumph. But the wonder is that it got beyond episode four when David Budd (Richard Madden) tried to commit suicide by putting his gun to his head and pulling the trigger. He survived, we are told, because someone had replaced the live bullets with blanks. Don't try this at home, kids. As any old soldier will tell you, a blank can be just as deadly as the real thing. On day one of my TA recruit course all those years ago, the instructing corporal at Catterick asked for a packet of fags. One lad unwittingly handed his over. The corporal put it on the muzzle of a rifle and fired a blank. Twenty Embassy and the packaging vanished in a huge, fragrant cloud. "And that," said the corporal, as smoking bits of cardboard and tobacco fell on us, "is why you will never, ever fire a blank round directly at anybody." We only needed telling once.

THE world waited for Sir Vince Cable to deliver his much-heralded Lib-Dem Conference speech denouncing Brexiteers for wanting the "erotic spasm" of leaving the EU. Cometh the moment, Cable lost his nerve and blurted out "exotic spresm." So that's it. He's 75 and no matter what he has achieved in the past or does in the future, Sir Vince knows this blooper will haunt him to his obituary, and beyond.

RACHEL Treweek, Bishop of Gloucester says we should be "mindful of our language" in case referring to God as masculine alienates some people. She doesn't like the idea of young people hearing God constantly described as "He." The snag is that Jesus, the Bible and 2,000 years of Christian tradition all refer to God in male terms. But what the heck? The Church of England has moved so far from biblical teachings already that no-one's going to notice one more little change. Especially when hardly anyone goes to church anyway.

TALKING POINT

Catering for size seems a tall order

HOPEFULLY by the time you read this, something positive may have come of it. It relates to Louis Makepeace, the young man who claims he was denied a place at catering college because of his size.

Louis is just 3ft 10in and accused Heart of Worcester College of backtracking on offering him a definite place on a course he had set his heart upon because of his condition, called achondroplasia. The teenager claimed he was deemed a health and safety risk.

There are two sides to every story, of course, and the college said the place was still up in the air while it negotiated the necessary adjustments to its kitchens and equipment.

"We would like to state that at no point has Louis been told he could not attend his course but both Louis and Mrs Makepeace have been informed that the adjustments Louis requires will need to be agreed before an unconditional offer can be given," a statement said.

But, without a firm offer, and because of the way Louis feels he was treated, the boy has opted against enrolling anyway.

And that's such a shame that, because of the wrangle, he is unable to pursue his dream, something that all young people should be entitled to do.

The youngster claimed he is a huge fan of Gino D'ACampo and wanted to follow in his footsteps. He also said more flexibility was needed.

Under health and safety regulations, employers are expected to make the necessary amendments to cater for disabilities.

Surely society as a whole should be striving to make sure that people of all abilities can achieve their live goals.

Louis' size should not detract from his ability to do whatever is put in front of him. Sometimes, all people need is a chance to show what they can do and he wasn't being given that.

Youngsters need an aim and direction in life and cooking is something Louis loves doing. He has even shown off his culinary skills on national television since the row broke out. Sadly, other than that, it seems he has been deprived of chasing his ambition.

Yet, often, it is against all odds that real winners thrive and hopefully Louis can get the break he needs.

Celebrity chef Gordon Ramsay has been among those offering support and has said he would be willing to offer him an apprenticeship.

Louis' mother also believes she hopes something good can come of the whole saga. That's food for thought.

MARK SHIPP

Many motorists abuse cycle lanes

I am a cyclist, I have insurance for my bike which covers if I get injured and if I damage another vehicle, the same cover that you would get with a car.

I also pay road tax because I am also a car driver, therefore I contribute to the maintenance of our roads and everything else road tax covers.

I agree cyclists shouldn't ride in pedestrian areas – which I don't – I also don't cross using pedestrian crossings.

However, whilst riding I encounter many problems which car drivers do not care about. Many of you park in the cycle lanes which you insist we use instead of using your precious roads, which may I remind you we have as much right to use. When you're not parked in them, 70 per cent of you are driving in them. How are we meant to use them?

Does it really hurt you to drive behind a cyclist for a few minutes or allow them more room? This ignorance is what costs cyclist their lives.

KARIS WHITEHOUSE
Oldbury

Be respectful of each other

DOUGLAS Winterborn (Letters to the Editor, September 20) should know that the vast majority of cyclists are road tax payers as they are also drivers.

Most cyclists are also insured either as individuals or with their club or cycling group through organisations such as Cycling UK or British Cycling.

Many cyclists have had additional training (eg Bikeability) to assist them when out on the road and most are suitably attired.

There are cyclists and drivers who don't pay attention to the requirements that our busy roads demand but, if road users are respectful of one another, things can only improve.

KEITH HALL
Stourbridge

Putin will exploit any weakness

WITH the confirmation that the Russian state was behind the appalling and reckless use of a deadly chemical weapon on British soil, and the continued denial of responsibility from Russia, we can only conclude we are dealing with an immoral state.

Mr Putin, like other dictators before him, believes that his country has been treated unfairly in the past.

We know from recent history that a state that feels that they have been unjustly treated are a threat to world peace and only a collective and strong response can curtail their actions.

Mr Putin will look for weaknesses in his perceived enemies. He will look for disunity and he will exploit it.

Our leaders can avoid a major conflagration if they show unity and strength. We all want peace, including the Russian people

JOHN GREEN
Sedgley

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

POST
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EMAIL
dudley.chrons@expressandstar.co.uk

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Put the emphasis on people power

THE proposals for changes in Parliamentary constituencies have been criticised by sitting MPs.

These members have themselves to blame for not facing up to the fact the UK constitution is broken, not fit for purpose and needs radical reform.

A powerful driver of those voting to leave the EU was the feeling that their lives had for too long been shaped by decisions over which they had no control.

We desperately need to downsize and refocus the House of Commons, the Lords and local government.

Power and representation for England has to be moved from Westminster to the regions

GEORGE MORRAN
Dudley

You could not make this up!

YOU couldn't make it up!

With the most serious crimewave of recent times raging on our streets, the response of the intrepid West Midlands Police Force (Soft Target Division) – clearly flushed with success from their 'test the motorists' eyesight' campaign – is to hit back hard with their 'spot the texter' campaign by deploying officers on the upper decks of buses to spy on drivers using mobile phones

Well done, lads – that'll show 'em! Peace on our streets at last.

BRYN WILLIAMS
Wordsley

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COMPETITION

You'd have to be crackers to miss this

CHRISTMAS will soon be upon us … but there's no need to panic.

The fabulous Festive Gift Fair, now in its 23rd fabulous year, continues to be the best place to start your Christmas experience.

And the organisers of the event at Birmingham NEC from November 15-18 have joined with the Chronicles to offer 50 free pairs of tickets.

As well as finding great gifts for your loved ones, treats for yourself and all your sparkling Christmas essentials, you're sure to have a fun-packed day!

It will be bursting at the seams with a colourful eclectic mix of unusual stocking fillers and presents, traditional gifts, festive food and great home decorations. With 325 plus stalls all under one roof, the variety is huge, with clever gift ideas for all ages and tastes and lots of special show offers! There's even a Present Creche to drop off your full bags.

The festive atmosphere is always fantastic and there's even more this year with new icicle lighting throughout the hall and a Victorian bandstand where live bands will take centre stage. While browsing the stalls, let the music get you into that Christmassy mood and be entertained by Santa himself, stilt walkers and pantomime characters.

Make sure you visit the food and drink area where you'll find 40 tempting stands. So, take the strain out of Christmas, enjoy a day out at the Festive Gift Fair and get your festive preparations off to a cracking start!

For more information visit www.festivegiftfair.co.uk

To enter answer the question below. Send a postcard with name, address and contact number to FGF competition, Chronicle editorial, 51-53 Queen Street, Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES. Closing date: October 5.

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Family gives out gifts in Harrison's memory

A BLACK Country family is raising money in honour of their 'happy little soul' Harrison Meekcom.

The youngster was diagnosed with a Medulloblastoma brain tumour two weeks after his second birthday and underwent a 15-hour operation at Russells Hall Hospital in Dudley.

After 95 per cent of the tumour was removed, he then had to endure six months of chemotherapy at Birmingham Children's Hospital.

In a horrific turn of events, Harrison fell off a chair and banged his head, suffering a bleed on the brain.

Despite further operations and care at the children's hospital, he could not be saved and died aged two-and-a-half in August 2016.

Smiling Harrison during treatment

A patient opens an Easter gift bag

Presents

Now, the Dudley-based family – made up of grandmother Carole Hipkiss, mother Nickola Hipkiss and father Lee Meekcom – are handing out presents to children at the hospital in memory of Harrison under the name of non-registered charity Harrison's Gifts.

Carole said: "They did everything to save him and, despite having a one per cent chance of surviving, Birmingham Children's Hospital asked for him back and did all they could to keep him alive. They operated on him again on August 23, 2016 and three days later the decision was made to turn his machine off – there was no brain activity whatsoever.

"I used to take bubbles and bouncy balls to the children's hospital and even though it's a small thing, it means the world to them.

Carol and Nickola Hipkiss and Lee Meekcom with one of their gift boxes

"When we lost Harrison we wanted to give back to them and Nickola had the idea of setting up a Gofundme page at Christmas to raise money and get them presents.

"We raised about £735 that first time, and we did it again in Easter the following year.

"Since then it has just grown into raising money any way we can and getting presents and paying for day trips to Blackpool and Drayton Manor for as many kids as we can.

"We want to keep Harrison's name alive and do it for him.

"I want to put smiles on their little faces. It's all about making life a little bit better for them."

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£6.2m revamp earns council a national award

DUDLEY Council's housing services team is celebrating after scooping a national award for a multi-million pound refurbishment that has brought benefits to the health and wellbeing of tenants.

The Dudley team has won the national Association of Public Service Excellence's health and wellbeing award.

The award was in recognition of the council's recent £6.2 million refurbishment of Margaret Vine and Holloway Court sheltered housing schemes.

The project, part-funded by the Government, was designed to improve tenants' quality of life.

Two years ago the council and housing partner Jessup began a makeover of 92 apartments – installing new kitchens and adding en-suite shower facilities.

Some apartments were extended and some balconies installed. The buildings also got a heating upgrade, rewiring, lift refurbishment, new door entry system and refurbished communal areas. The council also built four bungalows on land at Margaret Vine Court.

Charity ball will raise money for Caribbean military memorial

A CHARITY ball is being held to raise money towards a lasting legacy to honour the contribution of military personnel from the Caribbean.

The National Caribbean Monument Charity is working to raise £500,000 for a monument which will stand in the grounds of the National Memorial Arboretum at Alrewas, near Lichfield.

As part of their efforts to generate cash, members will host a ball at the National Conference Centre in Solihull on October 13.

One of the trustees of The National Caribbean Monument Charity is retired Royal Air Force Warrant Officer Donald Campbell, who lives in Tipton and finished his military career with seven years of service at RAF Cosford in 2006. He said: "This ball will be a night to remember and be part of our journey to make this historical monument possible. We are hoping to get as many people there as possible."

Donald Campbell, front, with members of the Caribbean Monument Charity

Earlier this year £2,000 was raised towards the appeal when several members took part in a sponsored parachute jump.

A site for the memorial paying tribute to those who fought for Britain and its colonies has been located and designs are being drawn up.

The campaign started when veteran Pauline Milnes, from London, visited the National Arboretum Memorial at Alrewas three years ago. The only mention she could find was of a 17-year-old Jamaican called Herbert Morris. Private Morris joined the 6th battalion of the British West Indies Regiment in Jamaica in 1916. He absconded after several of his comrades became casualties, was caught and executed afrer a court martial. He was pardoned 90 years later.

Tickets for the ball cost £55 if bought before October 4 and £60 after. See www.thenationalcaribbeanmonument.org for details

Planning chiefs reject scheme for 18 homes

CONTROVERSIAL plans for 18 homes in Dudley have been thrown out.

Dudley Council planning bosses said the scheme, on land near Dibdale Road and Salop Street, would have represented overdevelopment and affected the 'visually prominent' location.

Patrick Timmins, representing Blake's Sheds, a firm that had voiced opposition to the plans, felt the correct decision had been made.

He said: "There were planning safety concerns. The council have reached the right decision."

A total of 14 one-bedroom and four two-bedroom apartments would have been constructed on the vacant site, near Papa John's takeaway.

Helen Martin, chief officer of regeneration and enterprise, said: "The proposed development would encroach into an area of existing open space which forms a key characteristic of the area and by reason of the development's design, scale and layout it is considered to be detrimental to the existing pattern of development and character of the area."

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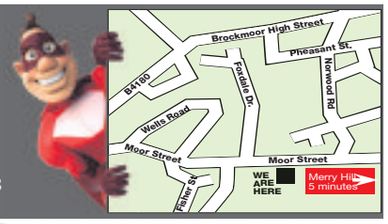

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Royal recognition for street pastors

Chaiman David Watts with Lord Lieutenant of West Midlnads John Crabtree OBE and Sally Bourner (Chief Superintendent of Dudley Police). Back, Dudley Mayor Alan Taylor, Mayoriess Winifred Taylor and Pastors

A VOLUNTEER group which helps people get home safely after a night out has been honoured with a top award.

Stourbridge Street Pastors have been given the Queen's Award for Voluntary Service to recognise the group's quality of service, persistence and value to the community.

The award was formally presented at their annual meeting last week by the Lord Lieutenant of the West Midlands, John Crabtree.

Dave Watts, Stourbridge Street Pastors chairman, said: "We are thrilled at receiving the award which recognises the massive effort street pastors have put in to ensure Stourbridge town Centre is a safe place for its many night time visitors and the help given to the vulnerable.

"Our teams have been out every Saturday night for the last nine years and sometimes at other times. We are recognised by local visitors to our pubs and clubs as people who care and help them."

Father, 50, in revenge attack is sent to jail

A GRIEF-stricken man, who took violent revenge on a woman suspected of 'slagging off' his dead wife two weeks after her funeral, has been jailed for two years four months.

Wayne Chancellor, aged 50, got help from 53-year-old friend Paul Kerr who lived in the same block as Tina Cannon, Wolverhampton Crown Court heard.

By John Scott

She opened her door to Kerr thinking he was alone when he called on March 29, said Miss Raj Punia, prosecuting. But she did not realise Chancellor had slipped in until it was too late.

Comments

He wanted an explanation for why she had been making derogatory comments about his late wife, who died suddenly aged 40, but she denied being responsible.

The victim grabbed her mobile to phone 999 while screaming at both men to get out. The call handler heard a male voice say 'I am going to kill you', added the prosecutor.

Chancellor wrapped a dressing gown cord around his hands, declared 'lets kill her' and punched the woman in the face. He pulled tight on the cord around her neck. Kerr stood and watched, before stepping in, telling Chancellor to stop and getting him out.

Father-of-one Chancellor told officers the victim had been 'slagging off' his wife. Mr Gurdeep Garcha, in defence, said he was left with sole care of their daughter. The change led him to drink. Mr Martin Liddiard, for Kerr, said: "He did not physically assault or threaten the victim."

Chancellor, of Arcal Street, Sedgley, admitted assault and making threats to kill. Kerr, of Wolverhampton Street, Dudley pleaded guilty to assault and was jailed for 10 months.

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Fizzog dancing granny in triathlon challenge

FIZZOG comedy star Jacky Fellows has raised more than £1,000 for charity by successfully completing an Olympic-style triathlon.

Jacky, one of the Fizzogs' Dancing Grannies, swam, cycled and ran to raise money for the Cosford-based Midlands Air Ambulance.

The challenge involved swimming a mile across the Netherton Reservoir, followed by a 25-mile bike ride ending at Kinver and then running six miles to the Mitre pub in Stourbridge. Jacky, who raised a total of £1,171, said she was 'amazed' by the generosity of people throughout her training and the race.

She said: "Luckily for me, I had two volunteers who swam in front and beside me so I knew exactly where I was going.

"My goggles stayed crystal clear and the anti-chafe spray that had arrived the day before worked like a dream. Consequently, everything fell into place and the swim went brilliantly. The 25-mile bike route had been planned with fine precision by members of the Barmy Team and they joined me on the ride to the Vine in Kinver. I was joined on the run by Mark and Emma Higgins from Halesowen Running Club.

"The support throughout was brilliant with Fizzogs Sue and Deb following in the car shouting encouragement and Martin Whelan following. Paul Williams, Zita Trabbocco and Brian Flatley supported me on the ride. Julia Taylor and Julieann Whitehouse guided me through the swim.

"Mike Cartwright, landlord of the Mitre, hosted the celebrations and donated £100," said Jacky.

Jacky, centre, with fellow Fizzogs Deb Nicholls and Sue Hawkins

Trees fall as storm rages

HIGH winds caused havoc in the borough as a number of trees were felled.

Dudley Council says it responded to numerous fallen trees as Storm Ali raged last Wednesday – including one at the household waste recycling centre in Stourbridge, as well as in Amblecote Road.

Access to the recycling centre was not affected and business there continued as usual. Councillor Karen Shakespeare, cabinet member of environmental services at the local authority, said: "Our officers have made areas safe and advised any land owners where necessary."

Meanwhile, a section of roof on Debenhams in Wolverhampton's Mander Centre came away during the stormy weather.

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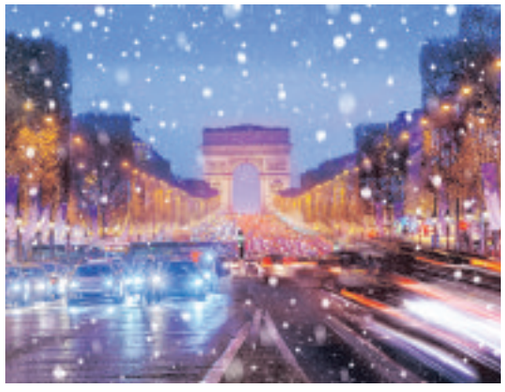
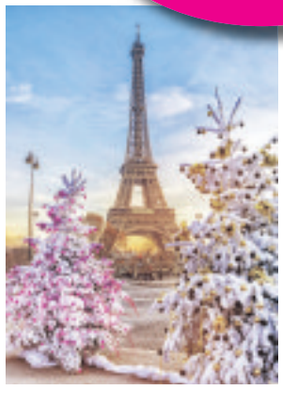

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Antiques dealer Philip dies following illness

A HIGHLY regarded antiques dealer has died in hospital following a short illness. Philip Ridgway, 71, traded at Perry and Phillips Auctioneers and The Old Mill Antiques Centre in Low Town, Bridgnorth.

Mr Ridgway died last week at the Princess Royal Hospital, Telford. He dealt in antiques for 50 years throughout the Midlands and much further afield before settling in Bridgnorth in recent years.

"He was popular at all the salerooms he dealt with and was extremely well regarded for his wealth of knowledge," said John Ridgway, his brother. "Philip stepped in to help me when our brother Denis sadly passed away in 2015 and he has played a key role in managing and developing our businesses. He had run antiques stalls and shops in Wolverhampton, Stratford-upon-Avon and Bridgnorth and dealt in antiques for some 50 years before joining me at Perry and Phillips and The Old Mill three years ago."

Mr Ridgway met his wife Sandy, at an auction and they worked together until her death 12 years ago.

Lorry driver cleared of killing five fruit pickers in M6 crash

A LORRY driver from the Black Country has been cleared of causing the deaths of five fruit pickers when he ploughed into their car on the M6.

Polish national Zbigniew Grzabel wept as the jury delivered the unanimous not guilty verdicts last week.

Four women and two men were in a Nissan Micra when it was struck by the lorry driven by the 62-year-old in the early hours of May 24 last year.

The two vehicles were headed south on the M6 between junctions 15 and 14, near Stafford, at around 4.20am.

It had been alleged that Mr Grzabel failed to react to a loss of speed by the Micra. But it emerged during the week-long trial that the Micra had mechanical problems affecting the throttle and acceleration, and had twice pulled onto the hard shoulder of the motorway.

A traffic officer told the jury the car seemed to lose speed, but no brake lights were showing.

The victims, 45-year-old driver Marius Zevian, and four passengers – his wife Cucoana Zevian, 49, Gheorghita Radu, 56, Nicoleta-Marinela Florea, 42, and 34-year-old Marcela Sandu – had been on their way to work at a fruit farm near Stafford.

Grzabel had never had an accident or points on his licence in 40 years behind the wheel, Stafford Crown Court heard.

Mr Grzabel, of Glebefields Road, Tipton, was cleared of five counts of causing death by dangerous driving and one charge of causing serious injury by dangerous driving.

Panel will choose top beer of festival

A JUDGING panel will choose a beer of the festival at Sedgley's biggest real ale event this weekend.

The sixth Sedgley Beer Festival is being held in First Sedgley Scout Headquarters, off Ladies Walk in Dudley, tomorrow (Friday) and Saturday.

A total of 36 real ales will be available for visitors to try during the festival. There will be five bands performing over the two days, including Sedgley Ukulele Strummers on Saturday afternoon and The Empty Can on that same evening.

Among the local breweries supplying beers will be Enville and Kinver, Lye's Sadler's Ales and Beowulf Brewing Company from Brownhills.

The beer festival is a charity fundraising event and proceeds will be going to Scouting, Children in Need and Cystic Fibrosis.

For more information, visit the events section on www.lovefromsedgley.co.uk.

What a grape idea for vine growers

Grape harvest time at the Halfpenny Green vineyard, near Bobbington

HALFPENNY Green Vineyards are now accepting donations of home-grown grapes for its annual co-operative scheme.

From now until late October, the vineyards at Bobbington near Bridgnorth, will be accepting grapes from the public. The grapes will then go on to be pressed and preserved to produce rosé wine. The estate will let people know when the wine is ready, which is usually around late spring the following year.

Clive Vickers, managing director, said: "People with vines in their back garden would always call up asking for advice, wondering what they could do with grapes that had grown in their back garden. Eventually we told them to bring them to us. The amount of wine available to each person is equal to the amount of grapes they bring in. For example, if a person brings in 10 kilos of grapes, they collect 10 bottles of wine.

Fruit can be bought to the winery in carrier bags, a box, or bin bags. For more information about the scheme call (01384) 221122.

Reward now £35,000 to catch arsonists

A CASH reward to catch arsonists who targeted a business has now been upped to £35,000.

Bosses from Commercial Body Fittings in Coseley originally put up a £10,000 reward but the cash on offer has now been increased in an attempt to bring the perpetrators to justice.

The gang, wearing hoodies and masks, was seen on CCTV emptying petrol into the ground-floor window of the building in Budden Road at around 12.30am, on August 6.

Firefighters managed to save the building from major damage but bosses say they are committed to ensuring the arsonists are punished for their deliberate attack.

Four people believed to have been involved were seen fleeing from the area towards the railway track. Police have launched an investigation.

Anyone with information is asked to call West Midlands Police on 101.

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Living in Dudley

Discover Dudley takes a whistle-stop tour of all the attractions the borough has to offer from the Red House Glass Cone, to Dudley Zoo and Castle and Himley Hall. The two-minute film has been produced to help boost tourism.

Film takes tour of borough attractions

A new two-minute film promoting Dudley's top attractions has just been released.

Discover Dudley, which represents all the borough's attractions from the big venues like Dudley Zoo & Castle, the Black Country Living Museum and intu Merry Hill, through to parks, canals and green spaces has launched a brand new film to encourage more people to discover everything the borough has to offer.

The film gives a whistle-stop tour of the attractions as seen through the eyes of a young girl and her family, calling in at the Black Country Living Museum, dropping in on lemurs at Dudley Zoo, spying dinosaurs at Dudley Museum, watching glassblowing at the Red House Glass Cone, taking in a show at Dudley Town Hall, gliding through the underground tunnels at Dudley Canal & Tunnel Trust, stopping off at intu Merry Hill, hunting for fossils at Wren's Nest National Nature reserve, before finishing with her running across the expanse of Himley Park to the picturesque view over the boating lake.

Proud

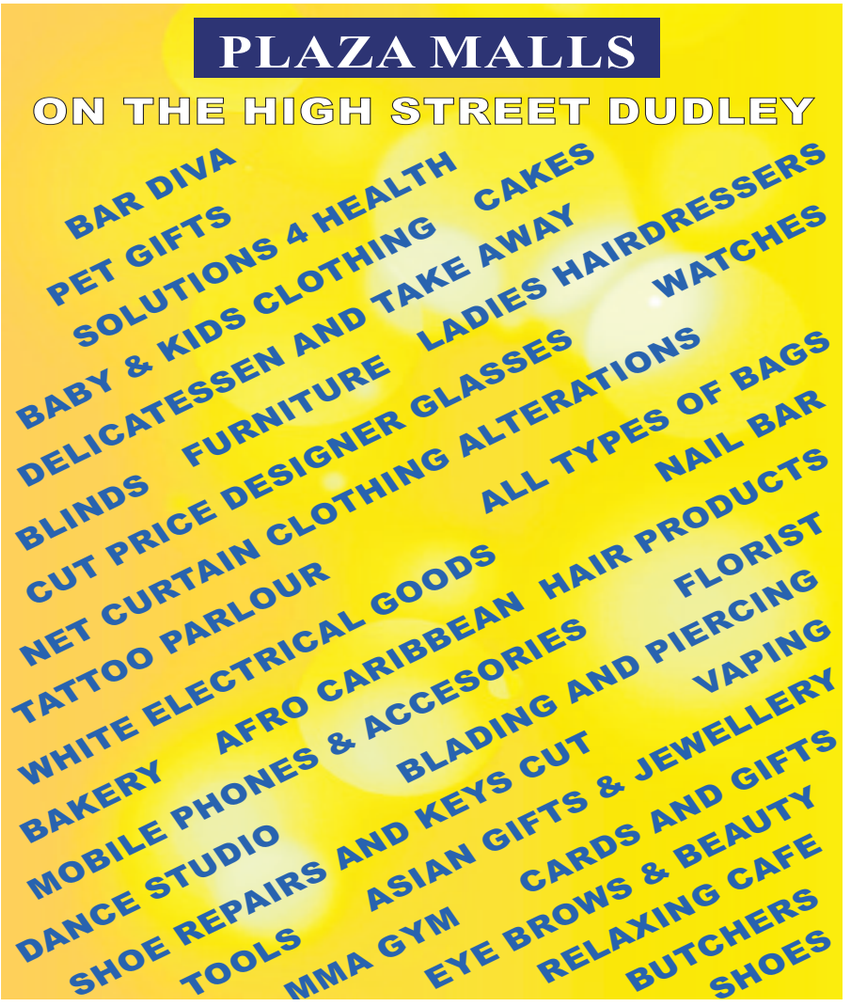
Councillor Ian Kettle, cabinet member responsible for tourism, said: "I am immensely proud of the film which has been produced for Discover Dudley.

"When you see everything the borough has to offer wrapped up in this short film, it's quite remarkable.

"We have national nature reserves, internationally important geological sites, award-winning attractions, historic locations and many protected green spaces – all within easy reach.

"Dudley borough has so much going for it. Yes, we were a key part of the past, playing an important role in the industrial revolution and the glass industry, but we continue to look forward, teaching new skills, bringing on the next generation of geologists, protecting endangered animals and running first class attractions.

"The borough is a great place to visit, and I hope this film also serves as a reminder to local people to make the most of what's on their doorstep." To view the film visit https://youtu.be/CKSi1kmDWtY



Bonfire night fun for families

Living in Dudley

Himley Bonfire & Fireworks takes place on November 3 and this year will have a hero theme

Organisers help Councillor Ian Kettle assemble pallets for the bonfire

The legendary family-friendly Himley Bonfire & Fireworks will be hero-themed and is set to light up the night sky on Saturday, November 3.

Inspirational heroes and heroines will be celebrated from the world of entertainment and sport as well as family members and people who are just remarkable in their own way.

As a respectful commemoration of the end of World War I, 100 years on, a unique tribute will be paid to those soldiers who heroically battled and for those who lost their lives.

The advanced online ticketing means that people can take advantage of up to a 20% discount off the gate price. Online, standard adult £10, standard child and senior citizen £5.50, family (two adults, two children) £24.

For the first time ever, the event will have a premium viewing area on the South Lawns near the hall with uninterrupted views of the fireworks. These premium tickets will be strictly limited and only available online. Full details can be found at www.himleyhallandpark.co.uk/bonfire or facebook @HimleyHall

Entertainment

In addition, also for the first time, there will be a night market as well as a giant funfair, Heart 100.7 roadshow, live entertainment and seasonal refreshments.

Councillor Patrick Harley, leader of the council, said: "The Himley bonfire has been a family favourite for over 40 years and is the largest local authority-run fireworks event in the country. But this year we have a new contractor with an exciting show and soundtrack to match.

"With the additional introduction of a special night market, we are offering something new to thrill our visitors.

"The new premium viewing area near the hall will have easy access to the rest of the grounds, but visitors will have the advantage of an elevated view of the fireworks, a private bar, street entertainers, seating and luxury toilet facilities.

"As this limited number of tickets will be highly sought-after, I would encourage people to order online before they sell out."

Gates open at 4.30pm, bonfire lit at 7.45pm and a 25-minute fireworks display is at 8.30pm.

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Living in Dudley

New disability service launched

A new service which offers support to people of all ages with physical or learning disabilities, or special educational needs launched in Dudley this summer.

The Dudley Disability Service is an innovative all age disability service which supports children, young people and adults with disabilities or special educational needs living in Dudley Borough. It supports them in aiming to achieve full and happy lives, helping them to become independent through gaining skills, knowledge and confidence.

The service offers a range of care and support services, as well as signposting to enable people with disabilities or special educational needs, to live as independent and fulfilling lives as possible.

People using the service can access support including day services, family centres, technology enabled support, assisted living, residential care and respite care, employment support, health visiting and school nurse support.

Practical matters such as housing support can also be provided and carers are not forgotten either, with access to the carers health and wellbeing service also provided. The service also works closely with the voluntary and community sector.

To find out more about the service call 01384 815813, or 01384 813252.

An open air service, which is usually attended by hundreds of people, will take place by the cenotaph in Coronation Gardens at 11am on Sunday, November 11

Town pays tribute to fallen

Dudley turned out in numbers this September to honour RAF Cosford and the anniversary of the Battle of Britain – and the town will fall silent again in November and pay its respects during Remembrance Day services and parades to those who made the ultimate sacrifice.

An open air service, usually attended by hundreds of people, will take place by the cenotaph in Coronation Gardens at 11am on Sunday, November 11. It will mark a century since the end of the First World War in 1918.

Before that, a parade will leave Vicar Street at 10.30am and march along along High Street, Stone Street, Priory Street and Priory Road before ending in Ednam Road by the cenotaph. Uniformed organisations will meet in Vicar Street from 10am and veterans are invited to join the parade.

Festival

Meanwhile, a Festival of Remembrance concert with the popular Gentlemen Songsters Male Voice Choir will take place at Dudley Town Hall on Thursday, November 10.

Tickets cost £10 and money raised will go towards SSAFA and are available from the box office on 01384 812812 or by visiting www.boroughhalls.co.uk/time-to-remember.html

It comes after scores of people turned out to see RAF Cosford officially receive the Freedom of Dudley Borough during a special ceremony on the steps of Dudley Council House earlier this month. The Mayor of Dudley, Councillor Alan Taylor, officially presented the freedom scroll to Group Captain Tone Baker OBE, Station Commander of RAF Cosford, before more than 60 staff from the station marched through the town with swords drawn, bayonets fixed, colours flying, drums beating and bands playing. The event, organised in partnership between Dudley Council and Dudley Royal Air Forces Association (RAFA), also marked the Battle of Britain during the Second World War.

The day included a service at St Thomas and St Luke's Church (Top Church) which paid tribute to the heroes of the "battle of the sky" before a return parade through the town centre and the laying of wreaths at the cenotaph.

Group Captain Baker said it was an "honour" to receive the freedom on behalf of RAF Cosford.

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Living in Dudley

Work begins on council's homes project

A £12.5 million project which will see Dudley Council build homes for private sale is now under way, with the first homes just a stone's throw away from one of the borough's top nature spots.

The council is investing in the ground-breaking initiative which will see it build 59 homes for outright sale alongside 20 affordable homes on four sites it currently owns. Work on the first development, on land along Wren's Nest Road, Dudley, and within walking distance of world-renowned Wren's Nest National Nature Reserve, is already under way.

It will include eight two-bedroom starter homes, which offer quality and affordable accommodation. Four of the homes are already being marketed off-plan while the remaining four will be offered as an affordable option.

The council has lined up housing partner and local developer Jessup to build the properties on its behalf and is working with local estate agent Billingham Taylor to market the properties.

Councillor Laura Taylor, cabinet member for housing, said: "This is great, as Dudley is a place people want to call home. This project puts us in the driving seat and in control of what we are building and where, with the needs of local people at the forefront of our mind."

Planning permission for a further 71 homes (55 private and 16 affordable) has been approved on the sites of the former Mere Centre in Stourbridge, Amblecote House on Brettell Lane, Turner House in Dudley and St Thomas' Network in Dudley.

The properties for sale can be found on www.rightmove.co.uk

Groups praised for helping to make borough beautiful

Dudley Council has praised volunteers who help to keep the borough beautiful through their work in parks, nature reserves, green spaces and allotments.

The Great Green Get Together Awards, which took place at the walled garden of Stevens Park in Wollescote last month, featured five award categories celebrating the work of groups and individuals throughout the borough.

The 'events organisers' award went to the Friends of Buffery Park for organising a multitude of activities that bring the local community to the area including table top car boot sales, a gardening club, Paws in the Park dog show, Halloween activities, coffee and cake days and their annual 'Summer in the Park' event.

Award

The Friends of Hurst Green Park was awarded the 'biodiversity developers' award for their work in partnership with The Wildlife Trust. Utilising funds from The Big Lottery Fund, The Pebble Fund and Community Forum, they completed a full transformation of a large natural pool habitat in the park.

The 'health promoters' award went to Growing with Dudley MIND. The volunteer group continuously promote and encourage all aspects of improving health and wellbeing through horticultural activities. As well as garden maintenance, they grow their own fruit and vegetables and help people to relax through gardening.

The Friends of Huntingtree Park gained the 'community partnership' award for its work to include local businesses in their seasonal craft sales. They have played an important part in the Halesowen in Bloom project, have maintained the bowling green for local community use and host popular community coffee mornings.

Friends of Huntingtree Park collecting the award

The 'group transformation' award went to The Friends of Abbey Street Park in recognition of their development and determination over the last year. They have organised community clean-up events, gardening sessions and have improved their play area with a brand new inclusive roundabout. The group is developing partnerships with local businesses and groups and have already hosted their first park event, which was very popular.

Councillor Karen Shakespeare, cabinet member for environmental services said: The work of our wonderful local volunteers helps us to keep Dudley borough clean and green and this award event was our way of saying thank you for all the work they do and to give everyone an opportunity to chat to each other about their individual projects.

"It was an honour to be able to meet up with everyone and talk about the special things they are doing.

"Their contribution is invaluable and it is very special to see their passion and contribution towards our parks, nature reserves and green spaces and I would like to offer them my personal thank you once again."

Reserve dubbed a hidden gem

A Lonely Planet author is drawing national attention to Saltwells Nature Reserve in Dudley borough after calling it a hidden gem.

Travel writer and photographer Oliver Berry praised the Netherton site, which is maintained by Dudley Council with the help of community volunteers.

His comments follow a report from Trainline, which teamed up with the author, to uncover some of the British Isles' best-kept secrets. It showed that train bookings to the West Midlands, namely Birmingham, has risen by 163 per cent this summer.

Saltwells Nature Reserve is famous for its bluebells in spring and is loved by young and old alike for its many sculptures. It is home to woodpeckers and wild orchids and is teeming with the most species of dragonflies in any locality in the Midlands.

Saltwells' nationally important geology also draws in visitors from all around the world, putting it at the heart of the Black Country Geopark. It has also recently won the prestigious Gordon Miller Award as its annual exemplar of good practice from the Countryside Management Association.

Councillor Karen Shakespeare, cabinet member for environment, said: "I would like to thank everyone who works at the site and the many volunteers who help to keep it so beautiful." For more information visit www.dudley.gov.uk

Help a child reach for the stars

New carers hub opens in Dudley

A new one-stop shop for carers has opened in Dudley.

Dudley Carers Hub, run by Dudley Council, provides support, advice and information to carers of all ages living in Dudley Borough.

Lots of people provide practical, personal or emotional support to a family member or friend due to their illness, disability, frailty or addiction.

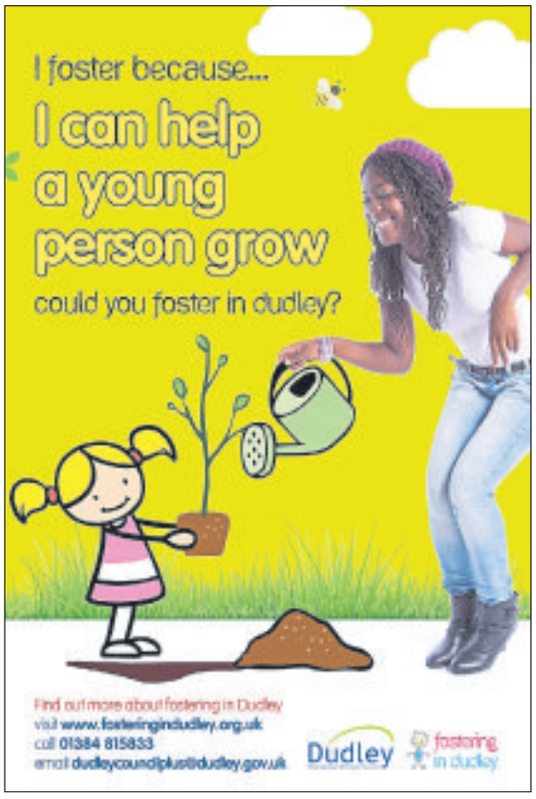
Dudley Carers Hub has been set up to improve the lives of local carers and ensure that they receive all of the practical help, advice and support that they need to ease their caring responsibilities.

Support on offer includes things like financial and legal advice, accessing financial help, emotional and wellbeing support, respite services, support planning, social groups, as well as specialist support for young carers and parent carers.

People can pop into the hub or call to find out how the service can support them with their caring responsibilities and with life outside of their caring role.

Pop into the hub at Wellington Road, Dudley, DY1 1RB, from Monday to Friday, between 9am and 5pm.

You can call the service on 01384 818723, email carers.network@dudley.gov.uk or visit www.dudley.gov.uk/carers



Dudley Council is looking for new foster carers who can help children and young people achieve their full potential.

The fostering team's new campaign, 'I foster because…' highlights some of the really important reasons why foster carers foster and the difference this makes in a child's life.

The service is keen to hear from anyone interested in fostering, but in particular from those who would like to care for teenagers, children with disabilities or those who could take more than one child so brothers and sisters can stay together.

Dudley fostering offers a rewarding career, with a range of fostering options, 24 hour support 365 days a year and comprehensive training and guidance.

Fostering

The team also hosts regular drop-in sessions which are a great opportunity for people who have an interest in fostering to find out more by speaking informally to a member of the fostering team and also some of Dudley's existing carers. Session dates can be found at www.fosteringindudley.org.uk/drop-in-sessions

Councillor Angus Lees, cabinet member for children's services, said: "We really recognise the important role our carers play in the lives of children looked after in our borough.

"They are real life role-models and each and every one not only cares for but inspires the young people in their care.

"We're always looking for new carers and we want people interested in fostering in Dudley to know how much of a difference they really can make.

"We're proud of our foster carers and are always happy to hear from anyone who feels they can offer a safe, caring and stable home to children looked after by Dudley borough." People can find out more about fostering and future drop-in sessions by visiting www.fosteringindudley.org.uk, emailing dudleycouncilplus@dudley.gov.uk or calling 01384 815833.

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Exploring royal roots of ballet

Birmingham Royal Ballet's Fire & Fury programme, staged at Birmingham Hippodrome from October 3 to 8, features two ballets fuelled by power and politics.

The King Dances, choreographed by BRB company director David Bintley, looks at the very beginnings of ballet at the court of the young King Louis XIV of France. The other half of the programme, Juanjo Arqués' Ignite, demonstrates that the flames of the art form still burn brightly.

In The King Dances, Bintley recreates the spectacular proto-ballet when the king of France danced the role of the Sun God in a spectacular court entertainment, earning his label The Sun King.

But beneath the veneer of the glittering and fashionable court lies a desperate struggle for power between the young king and his mentor, Count Mazarin.

Inspired by ballet's very first steps, an all-male ensemble displays virtuosity in this powerful and compelling piece.

Ignite by Arqués has been commissioned as part of Birmingham Royal Ballet's pioneering Ballet Now talent development programme, and features brand new designs from Tatyana Van Walsum and a score from Kate Whitley, co-founder of The Multi-Story Orchestra.

Inspired by Turner's painting 'The Burning of the Houses of Lords and Commons', Ignite translates vibrant colour into atmospheric and symbolic choreography.

Scott Matthews – his version of the blues has won fans

The best is yet to come

Wolverhampton's Scott Matthews, the Ivor Novello-winning songwriter, has toured with Foo Fighters, played Sydney Opera House and thought about calling his band The Wanderers in honour of his favourite football club.

The performer who grew up on a diet of Led Zeppelin before breaking through with hit single, Elusive, is seven albums into his career.

Tomorrow (Friday), local fans will get a rare chance to see an intimate home city gig when the 21st century bluesman headlines Newhampton Arts Centre.

Matthews has been on the road for years but in the past year or so things have changed, he's become a father and recently married his long-term partner, Sally. Married life suits him.

"It's all changed," he laughs, from his home just north of the city. "Since Elliott came along, it's been a sort of wonderful chaos. On reflection, I probably wouldn't have released a record this year had I known."

Elliott was the inspiration for his most recent album, The Great Untold – a collection of songs that were stripped back, lyrically insightful and brimful of emotion.

"The feedback from the hardcore fans has been brilliant. They seem to think it's my best album yet," he adds. "But I don't feel I've put my best work out yet. I still believe the best is yet to come."

Symphonic sounds from the movies

Symphony Hall in Birmingham hosts spectacular shows with a movie theme this autumn, plus a Last Night at the Proms style extravaganza.

Symphonic Fantasy on October 19 features music from Lord of the Rings, Game of Thrones, the Harry Potter and Pirates of the Caribbean movies. This will be performed by the London Concert Orchestra and Canzonetta choir.

The London Concert Orchestra return on November 9 for The Music of Stars Wars And Beyond, a sci-fi spectacular with lasers and indoor fireworks to accompany music from ET, Close Encounters of the Third Kind, Alien, Jurassic Park, Inception, Star Trek and, of course, Star Wars.

The music of Ol' Blue Eyes will be celebrated when Simply Sinatra, a Sunday matinee concert on November 18, features a 27-piece band with dancers and singers Matt Ford and Victoria Hamilton-Barritt.

Following sold out success last year, Spectacular Classics is back for Saturday matinee and evening performances on November 10. The city of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra and Choir, conducted by Anthony Inglis, will perform such Prom favourites as Rule Britannia and Land of Hope and Glory in a programme of popular classics. The highlight will be an explosive 1812 Overture complete with indoor cannon and fireworks finale.

For tickets see www.thsh.co.uk or call 0121 780 3333.

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AT YOUR LEISURE

The star cast for Peter Pan

Peter Pan set to dazzle panto fans at Hippodrome

A swashbuckling production of Peter Pan will dazzle tens of thousands of pantomime-goers this festive season.

It marks the panto debut of Essington-raised comedian, actor and writer Meera Syal, who will play a Mermaid in the production at Birmingham Hippodrome, from December 19 until the end of January.

The show's all-star cast also includes returning favourite Matt Slack, back for his sixth successive Hippodrome stint, plus boyband star Jaymi Hensley, from Union J, and the youngest of 70s stars the Osmond brothers, Jimmy Osmond, as Captain Hook.

Rehearsals started last week and producers promise it will be the UK's biggest and best pantomime.

Matt Slack said: "People always ask me how are we going to top the show from the previous year. Well, last year's was certainly great, with a brilliant cast, but this year's really is going to be exceptional. We've got a lot of surprises in store."

Jimmy Osmond added: "I've done eight pantomimes and this will be the biggest.

"I'm delighted to be back in Birmingham. I always enjoy a very warm reception when I come here. I've had some great times in the city over the years, playing concerts and appearing at the Hippodrome in Chicago and Grease. So it's wonderful to be back. It feels like home."

Chris has got Organisation to bring blues to Bilston

Blues and soul bassist Chris Bevington brings his Organisation to Bilston's Robin 2 venue on October 3.

The current line-up of this highly popular nine-piece outfit features Jim Kirkpatrick from FM, plus the Vocals of Kate Robertson and Sarah Miller from Nearly Dan, and the vocal and guitar talents of Scott Ralph. The band also feature Adrian Gibson (trumpet) and Mike Yorke (sax).

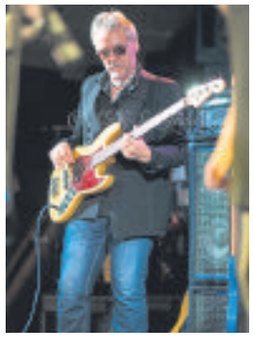
The Chris Bevington Organisation released a third album Cut And Run this year. The LP features 12 original tracks written and produced by Scott Ralph and Jim Kirkpatrick and will be available on digital, CD and Vinyl.

Chris said: "I must say that I am very lucky to work with such a wonderful team of musicians. Everyone has worked so hard preparing their individual parts and giving all their time, love and effort.

"The collaboration has created a truly unique band album and sound. It's just brilliant. So now our job is complete and it's time to let you hear it and we really hope you like it – and turn the volume up!"

Advance tickets cost £10 or £12 on the door. Birmingham's self-styled boogie woogie babe, pianist Emma Jonson, is supporting. See www.therobin.co.uk or call 01902 401211.

Meanwhile, on Saturday Brian Downey's Alive and Dangerous play the Robin when the Thin Lizzy drummer will be joined by Irish rockers Matt Wilson, Phil Edgar and Brian Grace.



Chris Bevington

Arenacross will roar back in the new year

It's back, bigger, louder, faster than ever before – the spectacular Arenacross Tour returns for 2019 with the fast-paced show coming to Birmingham, roaring into the Genting Arena on February 1 and 2.

The UK's fastest indoor show promises the craziest indoor motocross racers and freestyle MX stars from across the globe.

Matt Bates, CEO of ASL Active, who produce Arenacross, says "Arenacross never fails to entertain huge audiences year after year and, as we enter our seventh year of staging the tour, we're more excited than ever to continue growing our audience of AX fans. Arenacross isn't just indoor motocross, it's an entire night of choreographed entertainment that includes a great soundtrack, pyro, lasers and live screen back-stage action."

Tickets are on sale via www.theticketfactory.com or by calling 0844 3388 222. Calls cost 7p per minute plus your phone company's access charge. Ticket prices vary.

Pop getting personal with Christine/Chris

Christine and The Queens released second album, Chris, last week and will be coming to Birmingham as part of a UK tour in November.

Chaleur Humaine was the UK's biggest-selling debut album in 2016 and it's eagerly-awaited sequel is unlikely to disappoint with its quirky, twitchy electro-pop, exploring gender politics and the sense of being an outsider with the invention of masculine alter-ego Chris.

"Chaleur Humaine was about teenage years, most of it," says Heloise Letissier, AKA Christine/Chris. "The second album could have been me finding a fancy producer in LA and doing the pop s**t but actually, no, I wanted to make it even more personal."

The Nantes-born singer's voice is more powerful and the songs even more infectious, particularly hit song Girlfriend, and other key tracks include Doesn't Matter, 5 dollars, What's-her-face and Make some sense.

Christine and The Queens play the O2 Academy in Birmingham on November 26 and it is likely to be a sell out.

BRAIN GYM

No.499

Codeword

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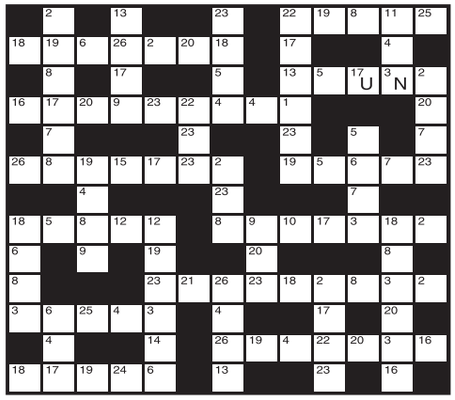

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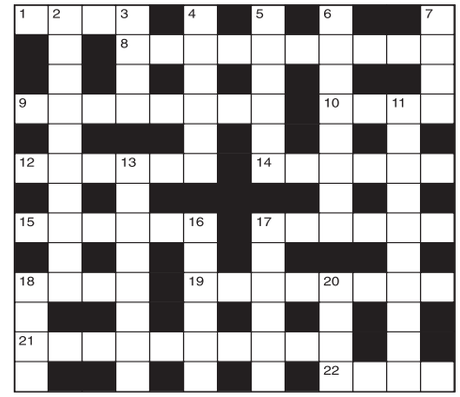
2	15
3 N	16
4	17 U
5	18
6	19
7	20
8	21
9	22
10	23
11	24
12	25
13	26

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION:

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
C	L	T	X	I	M	S	G	F	N	R	V	Z
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
K	E	U	O	Y	A	W	D	Q	J	P	B	H

Double Crossword

Choose either quick or cryptic clues – both fit the same grid.



Cryptic Clues:

Across

1. Restrain dog with big head (4)
8. Voters choose to speak (10)
9. Setback with furniture can be examined (8)
10. Thus return publicity for chemical (4)
12. Puts back part of organ in dazed state (6)
14. Not being impartial with short branch line (6)
15. Streak round person on ice (6)
17. Is in a hurry to get water-plants (6)
18. Little bird tells us he was a great architect? (4)
19. Hatchet used by boy on a bird of prey (8)
21. Mobilise forces with an affectionate summons to infant? (4,2,4)
22. Carry off girl from 15 when upset (4)

Down

2. Funeral director doesn't have a big enough income? (10)
3. Win against 7 (4)
4. I object to doctor having hesitation in becoming society man (6)
5. Not leaving the birds alone in Greece (6)
6. Has bias beforehand, but still takes the chair (8)
7. Gamble on a letter from 5, perhaps (4)
11. Sheer drudgery despite university teacher having answer book (6-4)
13. Obviously keep busy round a temporary home (8)
16. Iran to share (6)
17. Notice correct work again (6)
18. It's almost sinful, but it keeps the flame burning (4)
20. Lots of people and an entertainer (4)

Quick Clues:

Across

1. Slight quarrel (4)
8. Luxuriance (10)
9. Motherly (8)
10. Sickle (4)
12. Chastise (6)
14. Soften (6)
15. Brigand (6)
17. Die (6)
18. Spool (4)
19. Rapturous (8)
21. Belligerent (10)
22. Curse (4)

Down

2. Spotless (10)
3. Gala (4)
4. Extinguish (6)
5. Hawker (6)
6. Single man (8)
7. Look for (4)
11. All-knowing (10)
13. Lazy (8)
16. Ditch (6)
17. Clergyman (6)
18. Thick cord (4)
20. Too (4)

Sudoku

		1	7			6		3
	5	7	3		6			
8				1		4	2	
	2				9			6
		9		6		8		
6			2		8		9	
	6	2		5				8
					3	1	7	
		3			4	2		

Fill in the grid above so that every column, every row and each of the 3x3 boxes contains all the digits from 1 to 9.

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS >

7	2	8	6	5	9	4	3	1
6	1	3	7	2	4	9	8	5
4	9	5	8	3	1	7	2	6
9	3	4	5	8	7	6	1	2
8	5	1	4	6	2	3	9	7
2	6	7	1	9	3	5	4	8
3	7	2	9	1	5	8	6	4
1	4	6	3	7	8	2	5	9
5	8	9	2	4	6	1	7	3

LAST WEEK'S CROSSWORD SOLUTIONS: CRYPTIC - Across: 7 Lemon; 8 Profuse; 9 Houdini; 10 Outer; 12 Stagnation; 15 Shape badly; 18 Shout; 19 Rawhide; 21 Desists; 22 Tiara. Down: 1 Alchemists; 2 Amour; 3 Anti; 4 Spring; 5 Monorail; 6 Curtail; 11 Run like mad; 13 Treatise; 14 Papoose; 16 Arrest; 17 Vicar; 20 Wits. QUICK - Across: 7 Obese; 8 Elation; 9 Kingdom; 10 Tramp; 12 Particular; 15 Peccadillo; 18 Rally; 19 Arduous; 21 Astride; 22 Sight. Down: 1 Bookkeeper; 2 Means; 3 Lend; 4 Permit; 5 Nautical; 6 Disable; 11 Perversity; 13 Analysis; 14 Acolyte; 16 Images; 17 Tough; 20 Dash.

Quiz

1. Which screenwriter won Oscars for Dr Zhivago and Lawrence of Arabia?
2. What is a conger?
3. In Greek legend, who was Electra's brother?
4. Of which city's council was Derek Hatton deputy leader?
5. Of which fictional character is George Frampton's statue in Kensington Gardens?
6. Gyres are large-scale rotations of what?
7. Of what is the dogfish a species?
8. Which space probe made the first fly-by of Venus?
9. What was Jerome K Jerome's middle name?
10. In which US state were the Mormons founded?

Last week's solutions:

Quiz: 1 White blood cell; 2 Mir; 3 London; 4 Ultra high frequency; 5 Doug McClure; 6 Rodent; 7 Danish; 8 Edward Jenner; 9 Oglala Lakota (Sioux); 10 Ejector seat.

Niner: GLADSTONE

Niner

Each number from 1 to 9 represents a different letter. Solve the clues and insert the letters in the appropriate squares to discover a word which uses all nine letters.

51987 gives Saudi currency,
3878 gives Samoan currency,
64229 gives a small coin.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9

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SATURDAY'S TV SEPTEMBER 29

CHOICE

Claudia Winkleman (left)

Strictly Come Dancing (BBC1, 6.30pm)
Tess Daly and Claudia Winkleman present as the celebrities take to the dance floor once again. This week, the pressure is really on, with viewers given the chance to vote for their favourite couples for the first time. As ever, judges Shirley Ballas, Bruno Tonioli, Darcey Bussell and Craig Revel Horwood will be offering their own unique words of wisdom and waving their scoring paddles. None of the duos will want to be the first to leave, but one of them will be waltzing off into the sunset when the results are announced tomorrow evening.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. **10.00** Saturday Kitchen Live. **11.30** Raymond Blanc: How to Cook Well. (R) **12.00** Football Focus. **1.00** BBC News; Weather. **1.15** Bargain Hunt. **2.00** Cycling: Road World Championships. Jill Douglas introduces live coverage of the latter stages of the elite women's road race from Innsbruck, Austria, with the riders snaking across the Alps in pursuit of the title. **4.00** Final Score. Jason Mohammad presents a round-up of the classified results and this afternoon's news from the Premier League, EFL and Scotland. **5.20** BBC News. **5.30** Regional Programme. **5.40** Pointless Music Day Special. Alexander Armstrong and Richard Osman present a special BBC Music Day edition of the general knowledge quiz, featuring Lianne La Havas, Shaun Keaveny and Amy Macdonald.

6.30 Strictly Come Dancing. Tess Daly and Claudia Winkleman present as the celebrities take to the dance floor once again, with viewers given the chance to vote for their favourite couples for the first time.

8.35 Casualty. Ruby and Iain are less than pleased to be working a shift together and their day goes from bad to worse when they are pranked by a group of children and have to deal with an emergency labour. Duffy confides in an old flame.

9.25 Killing Eve. Villanelle lures Eve to Berlin by using the agent's name while carrying out the murder of a Chinese army colonel, and trails the MI5 officer as she and Bill investigate the killing. While Eve and Bill chase up a number of promising leads, Villanelle enjoys the cat-and-mouse nature of their proximity. But as they draw closer, Eve comes to realise that this is much more than just a game. Spy thriller, starring Jodie Comer.

10.10 BBC News; Weather; National Lottery Update.

10.30 Match of the Day. Gary Lineker presents highlights of the latest Premier League matches, including Chelsea v Liverpool at Stamford Bridge and West Ham United v Manchester United at London Stadium.

12.00 The NFL Show. Mark Chapman is joined by Osi Umenyiora and Jason Bell to present highlights of Thursday night's game – Los Angeles Rams v Minnesota Vikings at Los Angeles Memorial Coliseum. **12.30** Weather for the Week Ahead. **12.35** BBC News.

BBC2

6.30 Top Class. (R) **7.00** Marrying Mum and Dad. (R) **7.30** All Over the Place: Europe. (R) **8.00** The Dengineers. (R) **8.30** Absolute Genius with Dick & Dom. (R) **9.00** Planet Dinosaur. (R) **9.30** Elephant Diaries. (R) **10.00** The Animal's Guide to Britain. (R) **11.00** Natural World. (R) **12.00** The Incredible Spice Men. (R) **12.30** Great British Menu. (R) **1.00** Great British Menu. (R) **1.30** Great British Menu. (R) **2.00** Tom Kerridge's Proper Pub Food. (R) **2.30** Scrappers – Back in the Yard. (R) **3.00** Saving Lives at Sea. (R) **4.00** Cycling: Road World Championships. Further live coverage from Innsbruck, Austria. **4.55** Trust Me, I'm a Doctor. (R) **5.25** Monkman & Seagull's Genius Guide to Britain. (R) **5.55** Dad's Army. (R)

6.30 South Korea: Earth's Hidden Wilderness. Documentary exploring the wildlife, traditions and landscape in the country's rural areas. The programme features footage of dolphins swimming alongside conch divers in the volcanic islands of Jeju, a falconer flying a goshawk in the country's mountainous forests, and raccoon dogs hunting for cicadas that only emerge from underground once every five years. (R)

7.30 Princess Margaret: The Rebel Royal. Part two of two. Experts analyse the Princess's marriage to Lord Snowdon at the start of the 1960s as the VIPs ride the wave of a cultural revolution. (R)

8.30 Golf: Ryder Cup Highlights. Eilidh Barbour presents action from day two of the 42nd Ryder Cup from the Albatros Course of Le Golf National near Paris, where Europe took on USA. The United States ended a run of six defeats in seven Ryder Cups with a dominant home victory two years ago, but they have not won in Europe since 1993. With commentary from Peter Alliss, Ken Brown, Andrew Cotter and Ned Michaels.

10.30 Live at the Apollo. Dane Baptiste presents stand-up comedy from the Hammersmith Apollo in west London, introducing sets by Desiree Burch and Chris McCausland. (R)

11.00 Later Weekend with Jools Holland.

12.05 Gareth Malone's All Star Music Quiz. **12.35 Film:** Department Q: The Keeper of Lost Causes. (2013) **2.05** Trust. (R) **3.00** This Is BBC Two.

ITV

6.00 CITV: Dino Dana. **6.10** Super 4. (R) **6.25** Super 4. (R) **6.35** Make It Pop. (R) **6.55** Signed Stories: Share a Story. (R) **7.00** Cut the Rope: Om Nom Stories. (R) **7.05** Mr Bean: The Animated Series. (R) **7.15** Mr Bean: The Animated Series. (R) **7.30** ToonMarty. (R) **7.40** ToonMarty. (R) **7.55** Thunderbirds Are Go. (R) **8.25** Spy School. (R) **8.55** The Haunted Hathaways. (R) **9.25** ITV News. **9.30** James Martin's Saturday Morning. **11.40** The Martin Lewis Money Show Live – Christmas Countdown. (R) **12.50** The Island Strait. (R) **1.20** The X Factor. (R) **2.20** ITV News; Weather. **2.30** WOS Wrestling. **3.30** Tipping Point: Lucky Stars. (R) **4.30** The Chase. (R) **5.30** ITV News; Weather. **5.45** Regional Programme ; Weather.**5.55 Film:** Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire. (2005) Fantasy adventure, starring Daniel Radcliffe.

8.35 The X Factor. The competition reaches a new level as the dramatic Six Chair Challenge returns, promising amazing performances alongside agonising decisions for judges Robbie Williams, Ayda Williams, Louis Tomlinson and Simon Cowell, as they must each decide on the final six acts they will take through to their Judges' House. However, even if they win a seat, the contestants face an anxious wait as no one is safe until the last person in each category has sung. Each judge is able to change their mind at any point, swapping an act already through with someone else who comes on and out-performs them. Presented by Dermot O'Leary.

10.05 The Jonathan Ross Show. The host chats to The Great British Bake Off stars Paul Hollywood, Prue Leith and Noel Fielding, as well as comedian Mo Gilligan. With music from Olly Murs.

11.10 ITV News; Weather.

11.30 Film: Hellboy II: The Golden Army. (2008) The demon hero battles a renegade elf prince, who plans to reawaken an unstoppable robot army and destroy mankind. Action fantasy sequel, starring Ron Perlman and Selma Blair.

1.25 Jackpot247. Viewers get the chance to participate in live interactive gaming from the comfort of their sofas, with a mix of roulette-wheel spins and lively chat from the presenting team. **3.00** Long Lost Family. (R) **3.50** ITV Nightscreen.

CHANNEL 4

6.10 The King of Queens. (R) **6.40** The King of Queens. (R) **7.05** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **8.00** Frasier. (R) **9.30** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **9.55** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **10.25** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **10.55** The Simpsons. (R) **11.55** Come Dine with Me. (R) **12.55** Four in a Bed. (R) **1.25** Four in a Bed. (R) **1.55** Four in a Bed. (R) **2.25** Four in a Bed. (R) **2.55** Four in a Bed. (R) **3.25** The People's Vet. **4.30** Formula 1: Russian Grand Prix Qualifying Highlights.

6.30 Channel 4 News.

7.00 Britain at Low Tide. Tori Herridge explores the Severn Estuary, investigating a mysterious ruin on a bleak island. Along the coast she visits the site of the medieval village of Sudbrook, which simply disappeared into the sea, and finds out how important the ferry crossing at Aust was during the 20th century. The presenter also investigates the story behind the very first attempt to build a tunnel underneath the Severn. At the moment, all this archaeology is available to anyone to see, but rising sea levels and coastal erosion mean it won't be long before it's all swept away. (R)

8.00 Britain's Most Historic Towns. Alice Roberts explores the UK's past through the stories of its towns, examining key periods in history by delving into the secrets of places that encapsulate them. In the first episode, Alice tells the story of Roman Britain by studying the history of Chester. She enjoys an authentic Roman feast, heads deep underground to check out an extraordinary archaeological find, and explores a radical theory regarding the Romans' plans for Chester. (R)

9.00 Film: Lucy. (2014) A courier is kidnapped and forced to become a drug mule. When she is exposed to the experimental chemicals she is smuggling, it boosts her intelligence and reflexes to superhuman levels. She uses her newfound abilities to get revenge on her captors, but as the process continues, she evolves into something more than human. Sci-fi thriller, starring Scarlett Johansson and Morgan Freeman.

10.45 Film: Non-Stop. (2014)

12.45 Ramsay's Kitchen Nightmares USA. (R) **1.35** Experimental. (R) **2.30** Hollyoaks. (R) **4.35** Selling Houses with Amanda Lamb. (R) **5.30** Buy It Now. (R)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake! **10.00** Rise of the Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles. **10.20** Rise of the Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles. (R) **10.35** Cruising with Jane McDonald. (R) **10.45** The Wonderful World of Puppies. (R) **11.35** Police Interceptors. (R) **12.30** Police Interceptors. (R) **1.30** Police Interceptors. (R) **2.30 Film:** King Kong. (2005) Fantasy adventure remake, starring Naomi Watts. **3.30** Access. **3.35 Film:** King Kong. (2005) Concluded.

6.05 Can't Pay? We'll Take It Away! Stewart and Elmor see through a debtor's lies in Manchester, Gareth and Mitch are in for a surprise in Wiltshire and Matt and Garry seek almost £10,000 owed to a finance company. (R)

6.50 Can't Pay? We'll Take It Away! Stewart and Vic take on an eviction case in Nottingham, where they find a volatile tenant who refuses to back down. The duo also chase £5,000 for an unpaid parking fine. (R)

7.35 Can't Pay? We'll Take It Away! Matt and Garry try to recover more than £6,000 owed in nursery fees in Warwickshire, while Gary and Cona chased £11,000 owed by a businessman in West Sussex. (R)

8.30 5 News Weekend.

8.35 Albert: The Power Behind Victoria. Drama-documentary following the life of Queen Victoria's husband, examining his role as a driving force behind the industrial revolution, a leading influence on British culture, and a campaigner for the welfare of the country's working class communities. As nine pregnancies took their toll on the queen's health, Albert was driven to take up a far more active role until his early death at the age of 42.

10.40 Queen Victoria and Her Tragic Family. Following the story of the monarch after the death of her husband Albert, examining how her children rebelled against their mother one by one. (R)

11.40 Queen Victoria and Her Tragic Family. How Victoria struggled to perform her duties as a monarch and a mother throughout the 1860s, until she found a new influence in her life that relieved her depression. (R)

12.35 Queen Victoria and Her Tragic Family. (R) **1.30** SuperCasino. **3.10** Hunted and Confronted: Rogues and Raids. (R) **4.00** Walking Britain's Lost Railways. (R) **4.45** Wildlife SOS. (R)

DIGITAL

BBC Four

7.00 Monkey Planet **8.00** Big Cats **9.00** Mystery Road **10.40** Inside No 9 **11.40** Top of the Pops: 1986 **12.40** Roots, Reggae, Rebellion **1.40** Monkey Planet **2.40** Big Cats **3.40** Close

ITV2

12.00 The X Factor **1.05** You've Been Framed! Gold **2.05 Film:** The Flintstones in Viva Rock Vegas (2000) **3.15** FYI Daily **3.20 Film:** The Flintstones in Viva Rock Vegas (2000) **3.55 Film:** Despicable Me (2010) **4.55** FYI Daily **5.00 Film:** Despicable Me (2010) **5.50 Film:** Yes Man (2008) **6.55** FYI Daily **7.00 Film:** Yes Man (2008) **7.45 Film:** Quantum of Solace (2008) **8.45** FYI Daily **8.50 Film:** Quantum of Solace (2008) **10.00** Celebrity Juice **10.50** Family Guy **12.20** American Dad! **1.15** Through the Keyhole: I'm a Celebrity Get Me Out of Here! **2.15** Totally Bonkers Guinness World Records **2.45** Teleshopping **5.45** ITV2 Nightscreen

ITV3

12.50 Agatha Christie's Poirot **6.55** Lewis **9.00** Endeavour **11.00** Vera **1.00** On the Buses **1.55** ITV3 Nightscreen **2.30** Teleshopping

ITV4

1.30 ITV Racing: Live from Newmarket. Coverage of the day's races at Newmarket and Haydock Park. **4.00 Film:** Tobruk (1967) **5.05** FYI Daily **5.10 Film:** Tobruk (1967) **6.10** Made in Britain **7.15 Film:** Police Academy 2: Their First Assignment (1985) **8.15** FYI Daily **8.20 Film:** Police Academy 2: Their First Assignment (1985) **9.00 Film:** Rocky V (1990) **10.05** FYI Daily **10.10 Film:** Rocky V (1990) **11.10 Film:** Hard to Kill (1990) **12.10** FYI Daily **12.15 Film:** Hard to Kill (1990) **1.15** Better Late Than Never **2.05** The Americans **2.55** ITV4 Nightscreen **3.00** Teleshopping

E4

11.35 Brooklyn Nine-Nine **2.00** The Big Bang Theory **3.00** The Great British Bake Off **4.15** The Great British Bake Off: An Extra Slice **5.20** Extreme Cake Makers **5.30** The Big Bang Theory **9.00 Film:** A Good Day to Die Hard (2013) **10.55** Gogglebox **1.00** Rude Tube **2.05** Gogglebox **3.00** Celebs Go Dating

Film4

12.35 Mirror Mirror (2012) **2.50** Spy Kids 4: All the Time in the World (2011) **4.35** Carry On Nurse (1959) **6.20** Joy Interview Special **6.30** The Hunger Games: Mockingjay – Part 1 (2014) **8.50** The Wife Interview Special **9.00** In Bruges (2008) **11.10** An American Werewolf in London (1981)

CHOICE

Jenna Coleman

The Cry (BBC1, 9pm)
Jenna Coleman stars in the first of a four-part dramatisation of Helen Fitzgerald's novel. Joanna travels with her partner Alistair and their baby son to Australia, where Alistair hopes to campaign for custody of his teenage daughter from a previous marriage. Their journey ends in tragedy when the child goes missing, with devastating psychological repercussions for the distraught mother. With Ewen Leslie, Stella Gonet, Markella Kavenagh and Asher Keddie.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. **8.25** Match of the Day. (R) **10.00** The Andrew Marr Show. **11.00** Regional Programme. **11.30** Sunday Morning Live. **12.30** Bargain Hunt. (R) **1.00** BBC News; Weather. **1.15** Money for Nothing. (R) **2.15** Points of View. **2.30** Songs of Praise. **3.05** Escape to the Country. (R) **4.05** Pointless Celebrities. (R) **5.00** Impossible Celebrities. **5.50** BBC News.

6.05 Regional Programme.

6.15 Countryfile. Sean Fletcher visits a habitat creation project in Herefordshire, which is home to otters, water rail, bitterns and grass snakes. Margherita Taylor visits an orchard where a popular medieval drink is being revived, Matt Baker takes a look ahead to this year's Children in Need Ramble, and Tom Heap reports on drug gangs targetting vulnerable rural children. Plus, John Craven announces the winner of this year's photographic competition. Including Weather for the Week Ahead.

7.15 Strictly Come Dancing: The Results. Tess Daly and Claudia Winkleman host the results of last night's show, revealing which of the couples will be first to leave the contest. Featuring a performance by George Ezra.

8.00 Antiques Roadshow. A return visit to the historic Abbey Pumping station in Leicester, where playwright Joe Orton's sister brings in the typewriter on which he wrote some of his most important scripts.

9.00 The Cry. New series. Dramatisation of Helen Fitzgerald's novel about a mother dealing with the psychological repercussions of her child going missing. Starring Jenna Coleman.

10.00 BBC News.

10.20 Regional Programme.

10.30 Match of the Day 2. Mark Chapman reviews Sunday's Premier League action, featuring highlights of the one and only game of the day – Cardiff City v Burnley at the Cardiff City Stadium.

11.15 The Women's Football Show. A look at the biggest issues in the women's game, focusing on matters at both club and international level.

11.50 Film: You Again. (2010)

1.30 Weather for the Week Ahead. **1.35** BBC News.

BBC2

6.05 Great British Menu. (R) **6.35** Great British Menu. (R) **7.05** Gardeners' World. (R) **8.05** Countryfile. (R) **9.00** The Beechgrove Garden. (R) **9.30** Saturday Kitchen Best Bites. **11.00** Athletics: Great Scottish Run. **1.45** Cycling: Road World Championships. The climax to the elite men's road race in Austria. **4.30** Super Small Animals. (R) **5.30** Grammar Schools: Who Will Get In? (R)

6.30 Before Grenfell: A Hidden History. The residents of Kensington and the community around Grenfell Tower tell the story, 150 years in the making, of how their borough became the most unequal place in Britain. Those local to the area share their memories of the dramatic events that shaped their community – from exploitation by notorious landlord Peter Rachman in the 1950s, to the first Notting Hill race riots, and the construction of Grenfell Tower in the 1970s. This is the untold story of a unique part of west London, revealing how its past has shaped its present. Narrated by Danny John-Jules. (R)

7.30 Golf: Ryder Cup Highlights. Eilidh Barbour presents action from day three of the 42nd Ryder Cup from the Albatros Course of Le Golf National near Paris, where Europe took on USA. With commentary from Peter Alliss, Ken Brown, Andrew Cotter and Ned Michaels.

9.30 Mock the Week. (R)

10.00 Motherland. Julia's child care problems are solved after she finds the perfect nanny, but her friendship with Liz is strained, and Amanda is keeping a low profile. Last in the series. (R)

10.30 No Activity. New series. Stokes and Hendy are assigned to stake out a house belonging to a couple who have been abducted – unaware the kidnappers are holding them in the basement.

10.55 No Activity. Neddy tries to explain rugby to Steve after a scandalous video of a player at a post-match party goes viral. Outside in the car, Stokes celebrates his birthday.

11.20 The Mighty Redcar. Tory activist Jade battles to win the hearts and minds of the predominantly Labour town. Last in the series. (R)

12.05 Billion Dollar Deals and How They Changed Your World. (R) **1.05** Sign Zone: Question Time. (R) **2.05** Holby City. (R) **3.00** This Is BBC Two.

ITV

6.00 CITV: Dino Dana. **6.10** Super 4. (R) **6.25** Super 4. (R) **6.35** Make It Pop. (R) **6.55** Signed Stories: Share a Story. (R) **7.00** Cut the Rope: Om Nom Stories. **7.05** Mr Bean: The Animated Series. (R) **7.15** Mr Bean: The Animated Series. (R) **7.30** ToonMarty. (R) **7.40** ToonMarty. (R) **7.55** Thunderbirds Are Go. (R) **8.25** Thunderbirds Are Go. (R) **8.55** The Haunted Hathaways. (R) **9.25** ITV News. **9.30** Countrywise. (R) **9.55** Emmerdale 1918. (R) **10.20** Midsomer Murders. (R) **12.15** WOS Wrestling. (R) **1.15** ITV News; Weather. **1.30** The X Factor. (R) **3.00** Back to Mine. **3.30** Celebrity Tipping Point. (R) **4.30** The Chase. (R) **5.30** Queen of the World. (R)

6.30 ITV News; Weather.

6.45 Regional Programme; Weather.

7.00 5 Gold Rings. Game show, hosted by Phillip Schofield, in which a married couple and two work colleagues compete to answer visual questions by placing rings on an LED floor in five increasingly difficult stages.

8.00 The X Factor. Dermot O'Leary hosts the second of the three Six Chair Challenge episodes, in which the acts perform individually before the judges choose who will be selected for the next stage. However, even if a contender is selected to go through to the next stage, the judges are free to change their minds and ditch them if a more promising alternative comes along later in the show.

9.00 Vanity Fair. Becky works out how to live well on nothing a year, but flies too high as she joins the dizzy ranks of lords, ladies and kings.

10.05 The Imitation Game. Alexander Armstrong hosts the impressions-based panel show, with Rory Bremner, Debra Stephenson, Jess Robinson and Lewis Macleod performing celebrity fairy tales.

10.40 ITV News; Weather.

11.05 Joanna Lumley's Silk Road Adventure. Joanna travels to the Islamic Republic of Iran, where she meets many people eager to share the culture and innovations of the Persian civilisation. (R)

12.00 Strangers. Jonah realises Megan was involved with Hong Kong's most dangerous players. (R) **12.50** Jackpot247. Interactive gaming. **3.00** Motorsport UK. (R) **3.50** ITV Nightscreen. Text-based information service. **5.05** The Jeremy Kyle Show. Guests air their differences. (R)

CHANNEL 4

6.05 Motor Sport: British GT. **7.00** Motor Sport: FIA World Rallycross Championship. **8.00** Frasier. (R) **8.30** Frasier. (R) **9.00** Frasier. (R) **9.30** Sunday Brunch. **12.30** The Simpsons. (R) **12.55** The Simpsons. (R) **1.25 Film:** Bend It Like Beckham. (2002) Comedy, starring Parminder Nagra and Keira Knightley. **3.10** The Great British Bake Off. (R) **4.30** Location, Location, Location. (R) **5.25** Grand Designs. (R)

6.25 Channel 4 News.

6.45 Formula 1: Russian Grand Prix Highlights. Steve Jones and David Coulthard present action from the 16th round of the season at the Sochi Autodrom. Lewis Hamilton went into this race with a 40-point lead in the standings over Sebastian Vettel, having won seven races so far this season, including four of the last five.

9.00 Celebrity Island with Bear Grylls. After two weeks on the island, three members of the team have already been driven to quit by the lack of food and brutal weather conditions. Pete Wicks has persuaded the remaining castaways to refrain from killing land animals for food, and they have survived on a diet of fish and yucca. However, they are struggling to catch any fish, and the group's resolve is sorely tested when a wild pig comes close to the camp. The desperate islanders are forced into a decision that sends shockwaves through the camp.

10.00 The Circle. Series assessing the impact of social media, in which individuals from all walks of life compete in a popularity contest to win up to £50,000.

11.00 8 Out of 10 Cats Does Countdown. Jimmy Carr hosts the comedy panel show's version of the words-and-numbers quiz, with Sean Lock and Sara Pascoe taking on Jon Richardson and Josh Widdicombe. (R)

12.00 Film: Before I Go to Sleep. (2014) Thriller, starring Nicole Kidman. **1.35** George Clarke's Amazing Houseboats. George Clarke recalls some of his favourite houseboat projects. (R) **2.30** Selling Houses with Amanda Lamb. The host helps a Portsmouth duo modernise their living room. (R) **3.25** Grand Designs New Zealand. A pastor and his wife plan to build a house on a crumbling cliff. (R) **4.20** Vet on the Hill. (R) **5.15** Buy It Now. (R) **5.40** Jamie's Comfort Food. (R) **5.50** Countdown. (R)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake!: Peppa Pig. **6.05** Peppa Pig. (R) **6.10** Peppa Pig. (R) **6.15** Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom. (R) **6.30** Luo Bao Bei. (R) **6.40** Digby Dragon. (R) **6.50** Fireman Sam. (R) **7.00** Thomas & Friends. (R) **7.15** Bob the Builder. (R) **7.25** Rusty Rivets. (R) **7.40** Peppa Pig. (R) **7.45** Peppa Pig. (R) **7.55** Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom. (R) **8.05** Paw Patrol. (R) **8.25** Nella the Princess Knight. **8.45** Shimmer and Shine. (R) **9.00** Pirata & Capitano. (R) **9.15** Noddy: Toyland Detective. (R) **9.30** Floogals. (R) **9.50** Paw Patrol. (R) **10.00** Rise of the Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles. **10.20** Rise of the Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles. (R) **10.35** Cruising with Jane McDonald. (R) **10.45** Monkeys Make You Laugh Out Loud. (R) **11.35** Police Interceptors. (R) **12.30** Friends. (R) **1.00** Friends. (R) **1.30** Friends. (R) **2.00** Friends. (R) **2.30** Friends. (R) **3.00** Friends. (R) **3.30** Friends. (R) **4.00** Friends. (R) **4.25** Friends. (R) **4.55** Friends. (R) **5.25 Film:** Ace Ventura: Pet Detective. (1994) Comedy, starring Jim Carrey.

6.50 Film: Robin Hood: Prince of Thieves. (1991) An English nobleman returns home from the crusades to find his father has been murdered and the local people are repressed by the tyrannical rule of the Sheriff of Nottingham. Branded an outlaw, he recruits a group of bandits to fight for justice and protect the downtrodden. Action adventure, starring Kevin Costner, Alan Rickman, Morgan Freeman and Mary Elizabeth Mastrantonio. Edited for language and violence.

7.50 5 News Update.

7.55 Film: Robin Hood: Prince of Thieves. (1991) Concluded.

9.55 5 News Weekend.

10.00 Big Brother. Daily round-up of highlights, featuring the latest tasks, games, arguments, laughs, diary room visits and bedroom chit-chat. Narrated by Marcus Bentley.

11.30 Film: The Bucket List. (2007) Two terminally ill men plan to enjoy the time they have left by working through a list of things they have always wanted to do. Comedy, starring Jack Nicholson and Morgan Freeman.

1.15 SuperCasino. Live interactive gaming. **3.10** Ben Fogle: New Lives in the Wild. (R) **4.00** Britain's Greatest Bridges. (R) **4.45** Wildlife SOS. (R) **5.10** House Doctor. (R) **5.35** Great Scientists. (R)

DIGITAL

BBC Four

7.00 Engineering Giants: Jumbo Jet Strip-Down **8.00** James May's Cars of the People **9.00** Farther and Sun: A Dyslexic Road Trip **10.00** Feud: Bette and Joan **11.45** The Last Explorers **12.45** Treasures of Ancient Greece **1.45** Pappano's Classical Voices **2.45** James May's Cars of the People **3.45** Close

ITV2

11.45 The X Factor **1.15** You've Been Framed! Gold **1.45 Film:** Twister (1996) **2.45** FYI Daily **2.50 Film:** Twister (1996) **4.00 Film:** The LEGO Movie (2014) **5.05** FYI Daily **5.10 Film:** The LEGO Movie (2014) **6.00 Film:** Despicable Me 2 (2013) **7.00** FYI Daily **7.05 Film:** Despicable Me 2 (2013) **8.00 Film:** The Fast and the Furious: Tokyo Drift (2006) **9.00** FYI Daily **9.05 Film:** The Fast and the Furious: Tokyo Drift (2006) **10.00** Family Guy **11.30** American Dad! **12.30** The Cleveland Show **12.55** Ghosted **1.25** Release the Hounds: Famous & Freaked **2.15** Teleshopping **5.45** ITV2 Nightscreen

ITV3

12.55 Film: Carry On Girls (1973) **2.40 Film:** Columbo: Sex and the Married Detective (1989) **4.40** Foyle's War **9.00** Lewis **11.05** Wire in the Blood **1.10** A Touch of Frost **3.00** Road to Avonlea **4.35** Murder, She Wrote **5.30** ITV3 Nightscreen

ITV4

6.30 Football's Greatest: Johan Cruyff **6.50** Pawn Stars **7.20 Film:** Police Academy 3: Back in Training (1986) **8.20** FYI Daily **8.25 Film:** Police Academy 3: Back in Training (1986) **9.00 Film:** The Blues Brothers (1980) **10.00** FYI Daily **10.05 Film:** The Blues Brothers (1980) **11.40** River Monsters **12.45** BRDC Formula 3 Highlights **1.45** The Avengers **2.45** ITV4 Nightscreen **3.00** Teleshopping

E4

11.30 Brooklyn Nine-Nine **12.25** Young Sheldon **1.30** The Big Bang Theory **4.55 Film:** Ice Age: The Meltdown (2006) **6.45 Film:** Back to the Future Part III (1990) **9.00** Krypton **11.00** The Inbetweeners **12.05** The Big Bang Theory **1.05** Krypton **2.55** Rude Tube **3.20** Hollyoaks

Film4

11.00 The House of Magic (2013) **12.45** Anna and the King (1999) **3.35** Speed 2: Cruise Control (1997) **6.00** Star Trek Into Darkness Interview Special **6.10** The Abyss (1989) **9.00** Taken 2 (2012) **10.50** The Watch (2012) **12.55** A Private Function (1984) **2.55** Close

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PROPERTY

YOUR WEEKLY GUIDE TO HOME BUYING AND LETTING

Extended home is spacious with panoramic views

An imposing, significantly extended and spacious individually designed home, 17 Gospel End Street, Sedgley, is for sale through Taylors Estate Agents at £295,000.

Being remarkably spacious, and with gas central heating and double glazing, it has a garage and panoramic distant views.

Within walking distance of the Bull Ring and amenities, this home was constructed by a local builder in 1960 for his own occupation. It is set back and elevated from the rear behind a lawned fore garden with a tarmacadam driveway approach.

It has a reception hall with a staircase off to the first floor and an understairs store, a lounge with a bay window providing distant views, an Adam-style over mantle and a living flame gas fire with a brass trim and fender. The separate dining room has a feature exposed brick chimney breast incorporating a slate hearth and an electric fire.

The extended/upgraded kitchen has an extensive range of light beech-effect wall and base units, roll edged work surfaces, a split level electric hob with a fan assisted oven below and an understairs pantry off and a door to a utility room, with a separate WC off.

Off the first floor, bedroom one has panoramic distant views, free standing wardrobes and matching cabinets. Bedroom two has an extensive range of light beech-effect units to one entire side, a dressing table section and chests of drawers. L-shaped bedroom three has panoramic distant views, fitted furniture and a door to an en-suite shower room.

Bedroom four has access to a part boarded roof space. The spacious bathroom is half tiled, having five down-lighters, a window with a blind, mirror tiles and a white suite.

Outside the integral garage includes an inspection pit. There is a side utility area and a neat, sheltered rear garden.

SEDGLEY £295,000

TO VIEW THIS PROPERTY

AGENT: Taylors Estate Agents
TEL: 01902 880888
EMAIL: sedgley@taylors-estateagents.

KEY FEATURES

- Imposing detached residence
- Individually designed
- Four bedrooms
- Panoramic views
- Garage & gardens

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If you are thinking of selling, look no further than the estate agents in these pages for the best local advice available.

Gated three-bed home has been well extended in a versatile design

SEDGLEY

£430,000 <<<

A beautiful home, designed and extended with great attention to detail, in Catholic Lane, Sedgley, has a versatile three-bedroomed layout.

It is for sale through Hunters Estate Agents at £430,000.

The property is set behind wrought iron gates opening to a spacious driveway suitable for parking approximately four vehicles, as well as a carport.

The internal accommodation includes a porch into an entrance hallway off which are two double bedrooms to the front, a modern shower room and a third bedroom to the rear.

There is a light and airy extended living room located to the rear of the property, having a feature log burner installed, a bow window overlooking the rear gardens and a bespoke staircase off leading to the master bedroom – which is in the 'dormer' part of the bungalow with an en-suite off.

Contact 01902 672274.

Three-bed house has planning permission

DUDLEY

£105,000

Having planning permission to extend in place, this three-bedroomed end of terrace home in Cedar Road, Dudley, is for sale through Trinity Property at £105,000 with no chain.

The property has double glazing and central heating.

Internally, its accommodation briefly comprises a good-sized lounge, a separate dining room, a fitted kitchen, a downstairs shower room and WC.

On the first floor there are three good sized bedrooms and a house bathroom/WC. Outside is a good sized rear garden with land to the side.

Contact Trinity Property on 01384 213395.

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GORNAL WOOD , Himley Road

INCREDIBLY SPACIOUS & ENLARGED, gas centrally heated, double glazed detached bungalow set in extensive grounds. With many fine period features the accommodation includes entrance vestibule, 21ft hall, lounge, through dining room, conservatory, kitchen, three bedrooms, shower/wet room, garage, side utility area & further 'bedroom arrangement' incorporating a bathroom. Mining search available. EPC: D SEDGLEY.

Offers in the region of £365,000

New

KINGSWINFORD, Bromley Lane

Commanding a prominent elevated position with SPECTACULAR ELEVATED VIEWS, this LARGE DETACHED FAMILY HOME offers a DETACHED DOUBLE GARAGE and DOUBLE WIDTH PARKING offering a GENEROUS and REAPPOINTED layout of accommodation which includes FOUR GOOD BEDROOMS and a landscaped rear garden. EPC C

£325,000

New

DUDLEY, Berkswell Close, Milking Bank neighbourhood

Located on sought after cul-de-sac upon popular development; this wonderfully presented MODERN DETACHED property. Having gas central heating & double glazing this well-proportioned family home also boasts porch, hallway, living room, dining room, breakfast-kitchen, utility/ storage room, conservatory, FOUR BEDROOMS with ensuite shower room to master, bathroom, garage/ storage, landscaped garden and driveway to fore. VIEWING ESSENTIAL. EPC: TBA SEDGLEY

Offers in the region of £309,950

New

KINGSWINFORD, Ridge Road

ATTRACTIVELY PRESENTED & EXTENDED, SEMI-DETACHED HOME comprising: Spacious Hall, Dining Room, Enlarged Lounge, Extended Kitchen, Three Good First Floor Bedrooms, Modern Shower Room, Large Driveway, Garage & Beautiful Garden. EPC D

£249,950

LOWER GORNAL, The Straits

Deceptively spacious, FOUR BEDROOM, gas centrally heated, double glazed detached family home within walking distance of many day-to-day amenities/schools/open fields etc. comprising: hall, refitted shower/cloaks, store, lounge leading to CONSERVATORY, dining room, refitted kitchen with 'light beech' effect units & various integrated appliances. FOUR BEDROOMS (two with wardrobes), bathroom. Driveway, 31 ft car port, garage, neat garden. EPC: C SEDGLEY

Offers in the region of £249,950

HIMLEY, Churns Hill Lane

An IMPRESSIVE and BEAUTIFULLY IMPROVED DETACHED BUNGALOW for those of 55 years and above, which is superbly placed within Himley Village. Including hall, generous lounge, conservatory, refitted kitchen with appliances, two bedrooms and shower room. BLOCK PAVED DRIVEWAY and ADDITIONAL REAR CAR PARKING SPACE EPC C

No upward chain

£234,950

GORNAL WOOD, Himley Road

●●Best & Final Offers to be received for the vendors consideration by 12.00 noon on Tuesday 2nd October 2018●● TREMENDOUS POTENTIAL! An enviably situated spacious detached family home for improvement set in prestigious neighbourhood and comprising; porch, hallway, 17'6" lounge with wide bay window, dining room, kitchen, pantry. Three bedrooms (all with built in wardrobes), bathroom, garage, lengthy foregarden and rear garden. EPC.TBA SEDGLEY.

Offers in the region of £230,000

SEDGLEY, Warren Drive, Northway

Stylish, gas centrally heated, uPVC double glazed FOUR BEDROOM link-detached family home in favoured district with tremendous distant views, and a sheltered rear garden comprising:hallway, cloakroom, large store, through living/ dining room, kitchen. Four bedrooms, bathroom. Lengthy car port, garage, garden abutting on to paddock. EPC D SEDGLEY

Offers in the region of £229,950

NETHERTON, Northfield Road

This VASTLY EXTENDED & EXTREMELY VERSATILE, FIVE BEDROOM, SEMI-DETACHED HOME comprises: Modern Kitchen, Dining Room, Attractive Sitting Room, Guests W.C, Five Generous Bedrooms (Master with En-Suite), House Bathroom & Pretty Garden. EPC: D

New price

Offers in Excess of £160,000

HOLLY HALL, Hilderic Crescent

This SPACIOUS & TRADITIONAL, BAY FRONTED, SEMI-DETACHED HOME comprises: Hall, TWO RECEPTION ROOMS, Kitchen, Three First Floor Bedrooms, Modern Re-Appointed Bathroom, Excellent Driveway, Garage & Lovely Garden. EPC: D

Now available

£159,950

New

UPPER GORNAL, Stable Court

Tremendously enhanced, double glazed, gas centrally heated (recent combi boiler) end 'starter home' with rare advantage of large brick GARAGE situated in short cul-de-sac within walking distance of amenities comprising; lounge, refitted breakfast kitchen. Two bedrooms (principal bedroom with fitted units & an overstair cupboard), bathroom, garden with patio and BRICK GARAGE with extensive additional parking. EPC:TBC SEDGLEY

Offers in the region of £153,000

Wordsley, Fairfold Lodge, Marshall Crescent

●Open Viewing Saturday 29th September 11am-1pm● A LARGE TOP FLOOR LUXURY APARTMENT set within the sought after conversions of the Heritage buildings. The BEAUTIFULLY APPOINTED layout includes TWO BEDROOMS with EN SUITE. With resident and shared visitor parking and maintained gardens and grounds. EPC E

Open day

Offers Around £144,950

New

COSELEY, Keats Drive

Enviably situated, Freehold, gas centrally heated (as seen) semi detached for improvement offering potential in popular 'backwater' location comprising; hall, lounge, kitchen, pantry, dining room, three bedrooms, shower room, separate toilet. Lengthy drive, brick garage, garden. EPC:TBA SEDGLEY

Offers in the region of £140,000

New

NETHERTON, Copse Road

This SPACIOUS & VERY WELL ARRANGED, TRADITIONAL STYLE, THREE BEDROOM, SEMI-DETACHED HOME comprises: Hall, Two Reception Rooms, Kitchen, Three First Floor Bedrooms, Bathroom & Large Rear Garden. NO UPWARD CHAIN! EPC: D

£115,000

New

BILSTON, Alice Street

REMARKABLY SPACIOUS, conscientiously maintained, gas centrally heated, double glazed intermediate 'starter home' within level walking distance of many amenities comprising: 28'4" reception hall, store, cloakroom, lounge, dining kitchen. Three generous bedrooms, bathroom. Level gardens. EPC: TBA SEDGLEY

Offers in the region of £115,000

NETHERTON, Talbot Road

Situated upon this BRILLIANT SIZED PLOT, is this TREMENDOUSLY SPACIOUS, SEMI-DETACHED HOME comprises: Hall, Two Large Reception Rooms, Kitchen, Utility Area, Three Bedrooms, Bathroom, Large Frontage with Generous Driveway & Garden. EPC G

New price

£114,950

New

Kingswinford, Albion Parade

A DECEPTIVE TWO BEDROOM, FIRST FLOOR MAISONETTE is planned over two floors with gas central heating and double glazing. Hall with stairs, Sitting Room including Dining Area, Kitchen, Two Bedrooms and Bathroom. Balcony and Parking at Rear. EPC D

No upward chain

£99,950

New

NETHERTON, Purlin Wharf

44 Purlin Wharf, is a MOST APPEALING, MODERN APARTMENT which in brief comprises: Hall, Delightful Lounge, Well Fitted Kitchen, Two Generous Bedrooms (Master with En-Suite), Modern Bathroom, Allocated Parking and Pretty Communal Gardens. EPC:

£90,000

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Also at Stourbridge and Halesowen

New

WALL HEATH, Foundry Street

An OUTSTANDING and DETACHED FAMILY HOME which enjoys a highly desirable location, close to village shops/ schools. With FULL WIDTH BLOCK PAVED DRIVEWAY, GARAGE and a LARGE LEVEL GARDEN, the layout is EXTREMELY WELL PROPORTIONED, WELL APPOINTED and includes THREE LARGE DOUBLE BEDROOMS with ENSUITE. EPC C

£285,000

New

WOODSETTON, Sedgley Road

NO UPWARD CHAIN. Good sized DETACHED family home located in popular location and within walking distance of local amenities, schools etc. Well maintained property consists of gas central heating and double glazing & briefly comprises; through lounge-diner,kitchen, THREE BEDROOMS, bathroom, enclosed rear garden with garage and parking to rear, plus the potential for spacious driveway to fore. Viewing is ESSENTIAL! ●●●Mine search available●●●. EPC:TBA SEDGLEY

Offers in the region of £154,950

New

DUDLEY, Redwood Avenue

NO UPWARD CHAIN - A most conveniently situated gas centrally heated semi detached for improvement with reception hall, lounge, dining room, kitchen, pantry, three bedrooms, bathroom, lengthy garage, sheltered/secluded rear garden. EPC: TBA SEDGLEY.

Offers in the region of £130,000

WOODSETTON, Marlborough Road

REMARKABLY SPACIOUS and EXTENDED gas centrally heated UPVC doube glazed detached bungalow upon fine corner plot having extremely flexible room arrangements and offering further potential. Entrance vestibule, reception hall, THREE BEDROOMS, bathroom, extended 19'7" dining kitchen, lounge, EXTENSIVE GATED PARKING. Garden and a DOUBLE 30ft TANDEM GARAGE. EPC: E. SEDGLEY.

New price WAS £225,000,NOW £215,000

New

NETHERTON, Fladbury Close

An OUTSTANDING extended, SEMI-DETACHED home, with gas radiator heating and double glazing requires internal inspection comprises: Porch, Hall, Lovely lounge, dining room, superb conservatory, STUNNING KITCHEN with appliances, Utility, Four Bedrooms (Master with En-Suite and fitted furniture), modern Bathroom, Garage & Attractive Garden. EPC:

Offers in Excess of £200,000

New

DUDLEY, Spring Parklands

This COMPREHENSIVELY RE-FURBISHED & MODERNISED, DETACHED FAMILY HOME has gas central heating and double glazing to comprise: Stylish Lounge being open plan to Dining Room, Stunning Gloss Kitchen, THREE BEDROOMS, Modern Bathroom, Driveway, Garage & Pleasant Garden. EPC:

£189,950

New

KINGSWINFORD, Cherry Tree Road

This WELL PROPORTIONED & MOST APPEALING, SEMI-DETACHED HOME comprises: Hall, Fitted Kitchen, Lovely Sitting Room, Dining / Storage Space (Previous Garage), Three First Floor Bedrooms, Bathroom, Large Driveway & Pleasant Garden. EPC D

£185,000

WORDSLEY, Maidstone Drive

●Open Viewing Saturday 29th September 11am-1pm● Enjoying very pleasant views, this SEMI-DETACHED TWO BEDROOM BUNGALOW has rear GARAGE/ PARKING and has just been EXPENSIVELY REFURBISHED including brand new decorations, new carpets, updated wiring and GAS CENTRAL HEATING BOILER. To the rear is the LANDSCAPED SECLUDED GARDEN. EPC D

Open day £179,950

DUDLEY, Ripley Grove

NO UPWARD CHAIN. Meticulously maintained, Freehold, gas centrally heated, double glazed intermediate 'starter home' briefly comprising; hall, fitted cloakroom, kitchen with range of high gloss cream finish units & integrated appliances, living/dining room, store. Two double bedrooms,shower room. Delightful rear garden, parking. EPC C. SEDGLEY.

Offers in excess of £140,000

New

COSELEY, Mount Pleasant Street

STUNNING! STYLISH, terrace of tremendous character (with many period features) that has been 'transformed' in recent years to provide; sitting room, inner hallway, cellar, dining room, refitted kitchen with a fine range of units (and various integrated appliances). Two bedrooms, bathroom with white suite, and staircase up to boarded roof space with dormer & sky light. Gardens. EPC: TBA SEDGLEY

Offers in the region of £130,000

LOWER GORNAL , Woodfield Road

●●Best & Final Offers to be received for the vendors consideration by 12 noon on Tuesday 2nd October 2018●● Significantly ENLARGED AND EXTENDED gas centrally heated, majority UPVC double glazed three double bedroom semi detached for improvement with LARGE GARDEN. Entrance hallway, lounge, kitchen, lobby, separate WC, 17'5" living room. Three generous bedrooms, bathroom, extensive gardens, concrete panel garage. EPC Rating TBC. SEDGLEY.

Offers in the region of £130,000

UPPER GORNAL , Jews Lane

Located in the popular Upper Gornal area of Dudley, a wonderfully presented modern intermediate first time buyer opportunity. Comprising of gas central heating and double glazing this TWO BEDROOM starter home also benefits from; entrance hall, guest W/C, Living room, kitchen-diner, fitted bathroom and private enclosed rear garden. EPC Rating C. SEDGLEY.

Offers in the region of £129,950

BILSTON, Lane Street, Bradley

Occupying a generous corner plot this traditional semi-detached property has plenty to offer in improvement potential. With hallway, TWO RECEPTIONS ROOMS, kitchen, rear porch, THREE BEDROOMS, bathroom, drive and gardens this property is offered with NO UPWARD CHAIN. EPC Rating F. SEDGLEY.

Offers in the region of £129,995

New

NETHERTON, Purlin Wharf

45 Purlin Wharf is a BEAUTIFULLY APPOINTED, GROUND FLOOR, APARTMENT which in comprises: Hall, Attractive Lounge, Modern Kitchen, Two Good Bedrooms (Master with En-Suite), Well Appointed Bathroom, Allocated Parking & Communal Gardens. EPC: B

£90,000

NETHERTON, Park Road

This ATTRACTIVELY PRESENTED & DECEPTIVELY SPACIOUS, PERIOD STYLE, TWO BEDROOM, TERRACE HOME comprises: Pleasant Lounge, Well Fitted Breakfast Kitchen, Modern Re-Appointed Wet Room, Two Large Double Bedrooms, Low Maintenance Garden. EPC: D

New price Offers in Excess of £89,950

COSELEY, Strathern Drive, Hurst Hill

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To book that all important viewing, contact Taylors Estate Agents on 01384 401777.

Suzuki's Swift Sport matures and the puppy is all grown up

Beneath the sportified exterior sits a stiffened suspension

By Ian Donaldson

Just like a well-loved but boisterous child, the lively Suzuki Sport has grown up as the years whizz past. So with this latest version, in comes a sense of maturity which make everyday life a bit less of a bother when you don't feel like being entertained.

But with the arrival of this new found maturity comes a loss too. Some of the lively interaction of old has faded, replaced by a properly grown up feel. Mostly, you reckon, owners of this latest and fastest of Suzuki's little hatch will reckon the changes are for the better, most of the time.

Adding a turbo to the 1.4 litre petrol engine has pumped in lots more low down pulling power, making the car quicker and even more obviously, much keener to hang on to higher gears at lower speeds.

It also means this new £17,999 Suzuki Sport is a 130mph (and 8.3 seconds to 62mph) machine that weighs a useful 70kgs less than before, uses a touch less fuel (on the official test at least) and cuts CO2 by a meaningful 15 per cent.

It also ceases to be the obvious £15,349 bargain of the old Sport but counters the new bottom line with a determinedly well packed standard spec that includes intelligent cruise control and the choice of several metallic paint colours, both of which usually add many hundreds to the bill.

The cabin is neatly assembled

Add in touches like satellite navigation (on a rather tiny screen), climate control, reversing camera and LED lights and that newly boosted price looks much more justified.

All these goodies are mounted in a car whose cabin reflects the inevitable hard plastics and cost watching associated with a model range that starts at £11,999 for lesser versions but it's all neatly assembled, and Suzukis have a reputation for built-in toughness.

Sporty touches inside run to grippy front seats, (very grippable) sport steering wheel and an instrument panel that will reveal your economy but not speed in digital form, which is a pity.

Beneath the gently sportified exterior (think spoilers and big twin exhausts) sits a stiffened suspension honed over British roads where 100 different set ups were put through their paces.

Which was only right and proper as the UK, with 1,500 Suzuki Sport sales annually, is the largest market for the car in Europe.

The result is one of the best-riding warm hatches you'll encounter, thankfully lacking the big wheeled harshness attached to many rivals. It means our awful roads will be less of a (literal) pain than they might have been.

A little larger than before, the Swift Sport remains small enough to add confidence to an enthusiastic B-road drive but big enough for a couple of grown men in the back, with gently splayed knees perhaps, and a boot a useful 25 per cent bigger than before.

So, there's an awful lot to like about this new Suzuki with extra punch from its now 138 horses, including an easy ability to top 40mpg in everyday life, with a combined 47.1mpg in the new and more realistic official economy test (and 135g/km too).

If you're stepping from the old to new you will surely mostly enjoy the change but perhaps sometimes mourn the passing of youthful enthusiasm. The lively puppy has grown up.

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Toyota celebrates 20 years of the Yaris

The Yaris Y20 has a classic gold colour

Toyota is celebrating the 20th anniversary of its European best-selling hatchback the Yaris with a new special edition – the Y20.

Debuting as part of a revised range for the third-generation hatchback, the Yaris Y20 brings a classic gold colour that appeared on the first car to the new machine but gives it a modern twist with a bi-tone dark grey roof.

That hue will be limited to 1,998 units – marking the Yaris's 1998 debut – but more colours will follow, namely silver, white or black, each with a bi-tone roof.

A number of grey highlights will also help to distinguish the Y20 – including on the 16-inch alloy wheels, side mouldings, front grille, door mirror casings and fog light surrounds.

The theme continues inside, with a dark grey centre console and steering wheel inserts, along with a new check-patterned fabric upholstery. Satin chrome air vents feature too, as do black floor mats with silver edging.

The icing on the cake is Y20 badging at the rear of the car and on the instrument panel.

There is no word yet on powertrain options, but expect the trim to be available for both the 1.5-litre petrol option and its hybrid sibling.

The Toyota Yaris Y20 will join the GR Sport to swell the hatchback's range, with the latter taking inspiration from the limited-run GRMN hot hatch with a number of racy additions.

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Dacia Duster wins best off-roader in new car awards

By Sharon Walters

The all-new Dacia Duster has been crowned Best Off-Roader by the Parkers team as part of its New Car Awards 2019, with the Duster praised as "the perfect choice" for the award.

The judges recognised the off-road capabilities of the Duster as being unstoppable in some of the world's most hostile environments with the new model only building on this toughness.

The new Duster was also praised as being more refined and better to drive, with a higher quality interior than before, all at an affordable price.

Speaking on the win for the new Duster, Parkers editor, Keith Adams said: "The Dacia Duster really is all things to all people, and clear proof that Dacia is a car manufacturer on the move.

"Low-cost PCP and keen list prices might drive people into showrooms for this family SUV with great off-road potential, but the car's all-round excellence are what will have them returning time and time again."

Reflect

The Parkers New Car Awards moves into its second year after a successful launch last year. The categories are designed to reflect the requirements of Britain's car-buying public with the winners all chosen based on the buying habits of the website's 2.9+ million users actively involved in the buying process.

The winning cars have been tested rigorously by the Parkers.co.uk team, which judged them on a combination of cost per month, value, quality, excellence and fitness for purpose.

Commenting on the latest award win for Dacia, Louise O'Sullivan, Head of Dacia UK said: "We're incredibly pleased that the Duster has won the first ever Parkers Best Off-Roader award.

"Just a few months after the car went on sale here in the UK it's great to see that the all-new Duster is proving as popular with the industry as the previous model, by offering an unbeatable combination of ruggedness, quality and value for money."

The new Duster went on sale in the UK earlier this year, starting at £9,995, with a host of new improvements over the previous model.

Every single body panel on the car is new, with a fully revised interior for better quality and comfort as well as featuring many new technologies and safety features never before available on the Dacia range.

To find out more about the All-New Dacia Duster visit: dacia.co.uk/vehicles/our-range/all-new-duster.html.

The new Duster was also praised as being more refined and better to drive

Every single body panel on the car is new, with a fully revised interior

Experts say learn from those 'oops factor' moments and cut your risk on the road

Road safety and breakdown organisation GEM Motoring Assist is encouraging drivers to reflect on the dangerous moments they have experienced at the wheel, to reduce the risks they face on future road journeys.

GEM road safety officer Neil Worth comments: "We are all familiar with those 'oops factor' moments of danger, where no harm was actually done but where we came close to disaster."

"We're encouraging drivers to set aside time thinking about their own particular 'oops factor' moments. But rather than dwell on the danger and risk being distracted, wait until the end of a journey and set aside a few moments to think about why it happened.

"That short period of reflection may be all you need to identify the reason, and to adapt your observation or concentration techniques to prevent a similar situation happening again."

GEM has produced the following four simple tips to reduce risk for drivers:

Think about risk on journeys. This risk could come from a dangerous stretch of road, from adverse weather, an unwise choice of speed or from a lack of focus on the driving task.

Expect the unexpected. This is especially true on familiar stretches of road. Keep your guard up, anticipate what could happen and stay ahead of the situation, rather than having to react urgently.

Risk

Eliminate the word 'suddenly' from your driving vocabulary. By identifying all the possible areas of risk, you can adapt and update your speed and position to keep yourself away from trouble.

Learn from mistakes. You're sure to be familiar with the 'oops factor'; the realisation that a risky moment just happened. Take time later to think about why that moment happened. Did you fail to see another vehicle? Did you misjudge distance or speed? Did we gamble with a changing traffic light? Most important, what could you do differently next time to reduce the risk?

"We can minimise the risks we face – and the risks we pose to others," adds Neil Worth.

"Good observation and anticipation mean we can spot potential problems early and look for a safe resolution of a situation in its early stages. In a sense we're doing other drivers' work for them – and we shouldn't expect to be thanked for it. Our satisfaction can come in knowing that we made a positive contribution to ensuring a safer journey.

"Experience should warn us of situations where risk is increased: for example, if it's a wet day, we know we'll take longer to stop. More to the point, we can expect to have to make allowances for others who may be less experienced or who don't connect wet weather with greater risk.

"Taking time to assess any 'near misses' we might have experienced - those moments during a journey where we raised an eyebrow, drew in breath, cursed another driver, or felt our hearts miss a beat – can be very helpful in reducing risk.

"Most of us are poor at accepting blame. But we're trying to keep blame out of the equation and adopt the simple priority of staying safe, and helping others stay safe, too.

"By recognising the situations that may lead to greater danger, and learning from those 'oops factor' moments, we can actively reduce risk, both to ourselves and to those around us."

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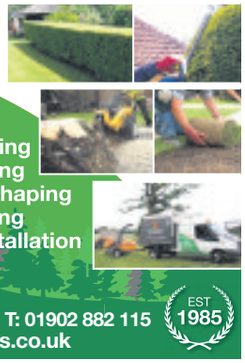

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Edgbaston grows for popular run of cricket

EDGBASTON is to add 840 temporary seats to its capacity for next summer's first Ashes Test against Australia, as well as matches in the World Cup and the domestic Twenty20 Blast Finals Day.

WITH ticket sales for next summer's Specsavers Ashes Test match increased by 35 per cent in in the pre-sale window in comparison Edgbaston's last Test meeting between England and Australia in 2015, the Birmingham venue is working with Arena Seating to install a temporary stand for use across all days.

Gareth Roberts, commercial director at Edgbaston, said: "There's never been a bigger programme of cricket in Birmingham than what's coming in 2019, with the Ashes, ICC Cricket World Cup and Finals Day all coming to Edgbaston.

"We're very proud to bring the biggest fixtures in the game to Birmingham and, in response to the initial demand that we've seen, we wanted to give more spectators an opportunity to secure tickets for these games."

George Elokobi

Wolves duo to make debut on microphone

GEORGE ELOKOBI and Matt Jarvis are heading back to Wolverhampton – to make their debut on a microphone! The popular former Wolves duo will join Chris Iwelumo, who has carved out a successful media career since retirement, as guests at the latest event for Molineux fans at the Cleveland Arms.

Hosted by former goalkeeper Matt Murray, it takes place on Thursday, November 29 and all VIP packages have already been sold. Only standard tickets at £10 remain.

Murray said: "George and Matt haven't done this kind of thing before but they said yes straight away when they were asked to come along. All three lads are really looking forward to meeting the Wolves fans again.

"These are great nights because it brings the fans close to the players and everyone goes away having had a really enjoyable time listening to the lads and their stories from their career and in particular their time with Wolves."

Tickets are available at the Stow Heath Lane venue, or call 01902 451021.

Matt Jarvis

Chairman Terry Shinton with special guest Doreen Tipton

A winning team – the Wolverhampton Sunday League's committee

Doreen adds fun but now for the serious challenge

THERE was plenty of laughter as the Wolverhampton Sunday League celebrated its 60th anniversary in style.

The Queen of the Black Country, Doreen Tipton, proved a smash hit on a night to remember for the league's hard-working committee.

Around 150 former players, officials and guests were kept entertained by Doreen's, (Gill Jordan to give her her real name), unique brand of humour with chairman Terry Shinton revealing it was a casual remark from his sister Tina that planted the idea of adding a female touch to proceedings.

"We had Ian 'Sludge' Lees at the previous event, so we were thinking along the same lines, a Black Country comedian because that's what we are, really, a Black Country league," said Shinton. "And Gill, sorry Doreen, was brilliant. She was great and stayed around afterwards to have numerous pictures taken.

"There was some good work by all the committee to organise the evening. Everybody mucked in and got things done and it was great to see it turn out to be such a success."

Battling

And after toasting their latest milestone well into the night in the Hayward Suite at Molineux, the league's committee are now turning their attentions to the serious issue of attracting new sides to sign up for Sunday morning action.

Leagues across the country are battling against falling participation numbers and the Wolverhampton Sunday is no different.

In recent years the area has seen the Dudley & Cradley Heath League and the Wolverhampton Combination, which played its games on Saturdays both fold, while the Bilston Junior Youth League has also blown its final whistle.

In its heyday the Wolverhampton Sunday League boasted 120 clubs and even had a waiting list. This season saw 61 teams sign up for action across five divisions.

But Shinton, who has been involved with the league for 40 years, and fellow committee members – Simon Perks, Phil Reade, Ian Ebblewhite, Wayne Harrison,

SPORTING FEATURE

By Nick Elwell

"At one time we didn't have any money but now we have money but can't get the teams. That's a concern for us going forward. We are half the size we used to be."

Eddie Yardley, Howard Morris and Phil Taylor – are ready to tackle the challenge head on. They are hoping to introduce a youth league in a bid to provide a route through to senior football.

"We are very proud to celebrate 60 years," said Shinton. "It's a great achievement and one we should be proud of. I have been involved with the league for 40 years, refereeing and then on the committee as treasurer and then, for the last four years, chairman.

"At one time we didn't have any money but now we have money but can't get the teams. That's a concern for us going forward.

"We are half the size we used to be. We had 120 sides at one point and a waiting list. We started this season with 61. That's the way things have changed. There is no Saturday morning football in Wolverhampton anymore. Who would have thought that would happen?

"The Bilston League had 14 divisions a few years ago and now the league has finished.

"For this season we tried to introduce a women's league and a veterans' league but we had no response to either. It's the same for leagues all over the country. Every league is suffering and losing teams.

"But we a very well-run league and we have always had a good committee. And we are up for the challenge and the fight to get more people playing local league football. One of the things we are looking at is introducing a youth league next season. We have contacted Birmingham County FA and they have given us permission to do it. Ideally we would like teams at under-13, 14, 15 and 16 and then they can go to open age football. We have got to start promoting it and see what interest we can generate."

Shinton believes the league has plenty to offer and he is open to any suggestions on how to check the problem of falling playing numbers.

"The league has some of the best facilities in the country," he added. "The park facilities in the area are brilliant.

"Some of the Birmingham Leagues don't have changing rooms, players still have to change in their cars on the car parks.

"We don't let sides play without changing rooms and showers. That side of things is set up really well.

"We have also got plenty of referees. A few years back we got to the stage where we had enough referees to put neutral linesmen on the line in the Premier Division. We look after our referees really well.

Involved

"As a committee we are constantly looking at new ways of getting people involved and teams on board," he added.

"At a recent league meeting we asked clubs to put suggestions forward and if they want to they can come to our next committee meeting and talk through their ideas.

"We are open to any ideas and we will try to put them into action if we think they are good enough.

"But it's not just football that's losing numbers. We sit on the Wolverhampton Sports Council and other sports are suffering. The athletics club start losing people when they reach 18 and it's the same with hockey clubs."

Shinton's determination to build on the league's rich history is obvious and hopefully there will be plenty more years of action on the parks in and around Wolverhampton.

"It's not all doom and gloom, the commitment is there from all our committee," he said.

"And as long as I have got breath, I will be fighting to get more teams on board to keep the league going," he added.

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Sport

Doreen provides the laughs at league's 60 year celebration

Page 39

Despair for Denny as title bout ended

Denny's injuries

ROWLEY Regis' Tyler Denny suffered heartbreak on Saturday evening after a nasty facial injury ended his hopes of winning the English middleweight title.

Denny had a deep gash to his lip, and a badly swollen eye when referee Terry O'Connor sought the views of the ringside doctor for a second time midway through the eighth round at Walsall Town Hall. The fight was waved off giving Leeds' Reece Cartwright the belt. It was the first defeat of 27-year-old Denny's career.

Wolverhampton debutant Conah Walker stole the show on the undercard to the BCB Promotions show. The Ricky Hatton youngster blew away Jan Korec, securing a fourth round stoppage.

Fellow debutant Troi 'The Hawk' Coleman impressed against the teak-tough Louis Van Poetsch. The Burntwood boxer can be pleased with his first foray into the pro game having made the switch from the unlicensed scene.

Fellow Burntwood boxer Dani Hodges made it two wins on the bounce since switching from kickboxing as she overcame Poland's Sonia Klos.

Walsall duo, James Beech Jr and Levi Ferguson, both cruised to victory over Simas Volosinas and Jordan Grannum respectively whilst Oldbury's Ryan 'Stewart' Davis bounced back from a first career defeat to beat Jamie Quinn in six rounds.

BCB Promotions are next in Walsall on October 27. See www.bcb-promotions.com.

Stour still possess that FA Cup magic

Stourbridge 3 Leamington 2

KAIMAN Anderson conjured up a stoppage-time winner as the Glassboys continued their love affair with the FA Cup.

A replay looked the likely outcome after National League side Leamington came from 2-0 down to level.

But in true FA Cup fashion, Stourbridge produced a last-gasp stunner when substitute Chekaine Steele whipped in an inch-perfect cross with his first touch of the ball for Anderson to convert and send the home support into raptures.

Glassboys boss Gary Hackett admitted afterwards: "At 2-2, I would have taken a replay, but we dug deep and the one thing we've proved is that we know how to win Cup ties!"

Glassboys were gifted the lead on 48 minutes when Jack Lane turned a Robbie Thompson-Brown cross into his own net. Stourbridge nabbed a second goal on 55 minutes when goalkeeper Tony Breedon bravely came off his line to block the ball at Thompson-Brown's feet, but could only watch in horror as the ball rebounded back out to Leon Broadhurst, who fired back home from fully 35 yards.

Leamington refused to lie down, however. Matt Stenson slotted home from a corner on 82 minutes and the same player levelled for the Brakes after after James Wren had saved Jamie Hood's header. But Anderson had the last word.

Glassboys, who face a home tie against Kidderminster in the next round on October 6, are at home to Needham Market on Saturday, 3pm.

Yeltz given football lesson as Trinity make Cup progress

Halesowen 0 Gainsborough Trinity 3

HALESOWEN were given a harsh footballing lesson as high-flying Northern Premier League outfit Gainsborough coasted to victory in the FA Cup Second Qualifying Round.

Trinity dominated against the limp hosts and will collect £9,000 in prize money.

Trinity made their dominance pay when Alex Simmons' corner was headed home by Shane Clarke in the six-yard box after 24 minutes.

The visitors added two further goals with some comfort in a one-sided second period.

The lead was doubled when man of the match Simmons was given too much time to deliver a lovely cross from the right for Ashley Worsfield to place a 54th minute header into the top corner. Dan Platt kept out further efforts from Damian Reeves and Alex Byrne before Gainsborough made it 3-0 in the 74th minute with an individual, but far too easy goal from Simmons.

Yeltz return to league action on Saturday with a visit to Bedworth United.

DK LIGHT UP PROCEEDINGS

DK 24 Droitwich 0

HEATHBROOK'S first league game under lights drew a sizeable crowd – and a convincing win for the hosts.

It was an important fixture for both clubs. DK had suffered a heavy defeat the previous week, and Droitwich had yet to record a league win this season.

The weather had threatened to impact on the game, but came to nought after a heavy shower during the first half, and with the Heathbrook surface getting back to its best there could be few excuses.

It was DK who made the statement with a bonus point win.

DK started the game well building pressure in the opening exchanges; an early run from Ben Brown on the DK left wing showed he would pose a threat throughout the game.

Concentrated

The pressure was turned into points, when the DK forwards put in a drive which led to a concentrated period of driving play which saw them cross the line with hooker Rhys Davies coming up with the ball and the try, his first for the First XV. When Danny Hawkins, received a yellow card for a tip tackle on 19 minutes, the subsequent Droitwich penalty crashed into the post and back into play.

In the final minutes of the first half, DK were starting to turn the screw, when the DK pack took a scrum against the head, and the ball was quickly in the hands of right wing Brown, who was off. He made ground down his wing only to be brought back for a foot in touch.

Moments later, DK were awarded a scrum to the right of the Droitwich posts on the 22, this was won and the ball was out to the centres. Stef Shillingford broke the line, and his centre partner Sam Vaughan was on hand to exploit the gap, and was able to make the line comfortably for a try which he converted – 12-0 at the break to DK.

Dudley Kingswinford's Sam Vaughan steps inside his man

The third quarter saw DK apply pressure inside the Droitwich half, and the combination of pressure and the varied attack options that DK were using was starting to take its toll on the Droitwich defence. This pressure was to bear fruit in the final quarter.

From a scrum, number eight Callum Nichols, who was back to his best, picked up and fed Jordan Brookes, who took the ball on, then a ball back to the forwards, a forceful drive from Matt Squires, onto Matt Perks, who kept the momentum going, again onto his second row partner Dan Marsh. Almost there but stopped, but back to Matt Perks who made the final metre for an excellent forwards try, no conversion.

Into the final 10 minutes DK were going all out for the try bonus. A scrum on the DK left saw Shillingford come on a hard line down the blind side, only to be stopped just shy of the line. At this point Droitwich were under the cosh, and resorted to a couple of eccentric kicks in their own 22. One of these led to DK being able to run it back down their right wing, allowing Tommy Walker a clear run to the line and able to almost run around under the posts, before scoring the fourth try. Vaughan added the extras.

DK's next two games are both away, at Worcester then Hereford.

● Stourbridge enjoyed a 36-7 win on their first visit to Peterborough Lions

Cockerton aims to make up 20 points

LLOYD Shelley put his injury problems behind to reclaim the Formula 600 class title lead during the penultimate round at Darley Moor.

The Burntwood ace had been out of action – and work – for three months suffering with sciatica in his back.

But he showed no rustiness to claim two class victories as well as giving the 1000cc-powered bike a run for their money on his smaller 600cc machine.

Round six of the Darley Moor Motor Cycle Road Race Club Championship kept the marshals and officials busy due to several incidents and red-flags to stop racing whilst the track was made safe.

Ben Scranage took victory in the All-comers non-championship race, ahead of Shelley, who finished fourth in the first Peak Cup race and then enjoyed a race-long battle with Richard Elgin in the second to finish third. Shelley recorded victory in both Formula 600 races leaving him top of the standings.

Neil Lloyd's weekend, however, did not quite go to plan as he suffered fuelling problems on his usually-reliable Honda RVF in the Lightweight class, but the Wednesbury rider still came away with two top-five finishes.

Anthony Eades and Wolverhampton's Keith Box lead Open Sidecars class, with Willenhall's McCauley Longmore top of the Formula 125 class. Dudley's Mark Cockerton has a lot to do to make up the 20 points needed to catch Chris Moore in the Classic 350 class. The final round is on October 7.

Manager goes in appointment row

CRADLEY Town are to appoint Chris Butts as manager after Ashley Causer resigned in a dispute with club bosses.

Causer claims Butts was appointed as a 'joint manager behind his back'. But chairman Trevor Thomas says he was brought in from Oldbury United to help turn around a poor start – but wasn't given an official role. Oldbury are now interviewing for their vacant post.

In the West Midlands Regional League on Saturday, Tividale beat Shawbury United 6-0, leaders Black Country Rangers drew 2-2 with Dudley Town, Dudley Sports lost 5-0 to Malvern and Smethwick Rangers lost 1-0 to Wellington.

★★★

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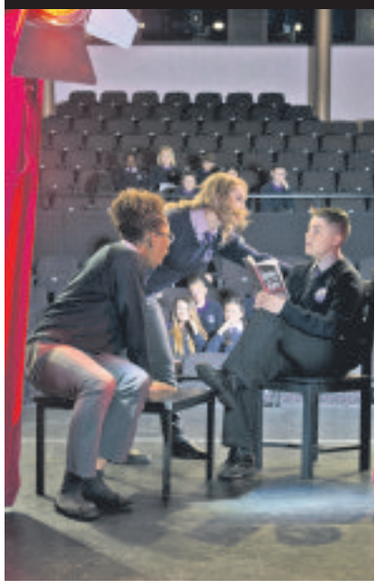
Dormston SCHOOL

"If pupils can say, every day, hand on heart, that they have tried their best, no one will ask any more of them.

We expect all pupils who come to this school to give us their very best and subsequently, be proud of what they achieve and who they are"

Steve Dixon
Headteacher



A good teacher can inspire hope, ignite the imagination, and instill a love of learning.

The Dormston Experience

Aims of Dormston School

Our aim is to provide every pupil with an educational experience of the highest standard to ensure that when their journey with us is complete they have the qualifications, life skills and personal qualities to enable them to succeed in whatever they choose to do.

We are therefore committed to:

- ✓ providing the highest academic standards which challenge pupils to achieve their very best
- ✓ ensuring a school culture that is caring and positive with the highest quality facilities
- ✓ providing a diverse range of extra curricular activities which further enhance learning outside the classroom
- ✓ strong and supportive relationships with parents and outside agencies with the best interests and academic success of our pupils

Dormston School is an 11 - 16 comprehensive school. By instilling confidence in our pupils and providing them with outstanding learning opportunities and facilities in a safe and supportive environment they can flourish into well rounded individuals ready to face the outside world with confidence and determination.

"The school's positive ethos can be seen in the way that pupils and parents are welcomed to the school"
Ofsted Nov 2016

Dormston Standards

At Dormston we focus on getting the basics right. We have a simple philosophy that underpins everything we do. We believe that if pupils, parents and the school work together every child will achieve their full potential. Our focus is on the following areas:

Attendance - We encourage every child to beat the school target of 97% and pupils should aim for 100%.

The more a pupil attends school the more they will learn.

We recognise that it is our responsibility to create a climate that means every pupil is keen to come to school every day.

Behaviour - Good behaviour is the key to a happy and successful school. At Dormston we make no apology for having the very highest standards and expectations of our pupils. As a school we also recognise the value of acknowledging good behaviour and helping young people to develop as part of a community. Our House System ensures no pupil goes unnoticed.

Classroom - Our aim is to provide stimulating learning opportunities for all. Pupils are set challenging targets which require hard work and commitment. Pupils and staff work together to ensure that every child makes as much progress as possible.

Effort - At Dormston we believe that every child has the right to be successful. We encourage all pupils to be aspirational in their approach. By working together there are no limits to what can be achieved.

Every child's safety and happiness is our main priority.

Environment - Having an environment that supports learning is a crucial part of our beliefs. We are fortunate to have some outstanding facilities such as our Theatre and sports facilities. We will continue to invest heavily in our school site.

Extra-curricular - School should be more than just the subjects that a pupil studies. We have developed a wide range of activities and opportunities that enhance the learning experience such as; Duke of Edinburgh, Masterchef, Running Club, Archery & Fencing (to name but a few). As a school we believe that every pupil can benefit from learning outside of the classroom.

Dormston SCHOOL

LEARNING IN THE CLASSROOM *& Beyond*

A well balanced curriculum combined with inspiring teaching allows learning to flourish and ignites knowledge.

We believe strongly at Dormston in setting our pupils high and aspirational targets to ensure that each individual pupil fulfills their true potential.

We pride ourselves on establishing and maintaining excellent pupil/teacher relationships whilst actively promoting self discipline and independent learning via homework and private study.

Our curriculum places emphasis on the core subjects of English, Maths and Science. Pupils also have the opportunity to study a broad curriculum including The Arts, Humanities and Technology. The school's curriculum has been designed to allow all pupils to discover their gifts and talents as well as develop the key employability skills they will require later in life.

Extra curricular activities are also an important part of school life which can further enhance learning and personal development. We operate a range of school activities for pupils to get involved with, aimed at meeting a variety of pupil hobbies and interests.

Extra curricular activities include:

- ✔ The Duke of Edinburgh Scheme
- ✔ use of the PLC from 8am onwards - information, research and reading
- ✔ a number of school teams; football, athletics, rounders, netball, basketball, hockey as well as club activities such as badminton, trampolining and fitness
- ✔ Mathematics Club
- ✔ Stem Club
- ✔ School Orchestra
- ✔ Singing Group
- ✔ Masterchef Club
- ✔ Archery Club
- ✔ Fencing Club
- ✔ Computer Club
- ✔ Arts Clubs (including school production)
- ✔ Technology Clubs
- ✔ Running Club
- ✔ Debate Competition

OUTSTANDING FACILITIES

Providing pupils with an outstanding environment which they can enjoy and respect is crucial. Having access to facilities and an environment that enhances the learning opportunity of our pupils is therefore a key priority.

Recent investments have included the new coffee bar and lunch area in our Atrium, along with some major enhancements to social spaces available to pupils.

Our Pupil Learning Centre and 350 seat Theatre are also other features that we have to offer along with a state of the art 4G football pitch. We believe that creating an environment conducive to learning plays a crucial role in helping pupils adopt our ethos by giving them a sense of pride in themselves and the school that they attend.

Dormston SCHOOL

Tell me and I forget, teach me and I remember, involve me and I learn.

Centre *of the* Community

As a school one of our aims is to be at the heart of the community. Relationships with parents, members of the public and outside agencies are a crucial element of any successful school. Listening to our stakeholders enables us to work more effectively and clearly demonstrates the importance of community cohesion to young minds.

We recognise and understand that we have an important role to play and are keen to be valuable contributors to any initiatives which can have a positive impact on the community and its residents.

We are fortunate to have The Dormston Centre operating from the school site. The Dormston Centre provides the school with many outstanding facilities including our 350 seat professional Theatre.

A Culture *of* Respect

Dormston pupils are given very clear guidance on the standards expected from them as members of the Dormston School Community.

At the heart of Dormston School is our highly effective Pastoral System. Every pupil is allocated to one of four Houses (Avon, Derwent, Severn, Trent). The House System creates an excellent platform to build on and develop many important values. Being part of the House System offers friendship and a sense of belonging as well as the opportunity for individual achievement and competition.

Pupils respond positively to these high standards and have a sense of pride and achievement as they develop both their educational knowledge and emotional intelligence. Through these well established systems we demonstrate our commitment to the welfare of our pupils and their enjoyment of school life.

AVON DERWENT SEVERN TRENT

Student Leadership Team - Avon

Student Leadership Team - Derwent

Student Leadership Team - Severn

Student Leadership Team - Trent

A school at the heart of the community.